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DECEMBER 13 - 19, 2012

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## We have work to do



As the end of 2012 approaches, I suspect most of us are reflecting on the past year and looking forward to what is to come. In my case, I am spending way too

much time thinking about the political landscape.

We just finished a rather stressful election season, and whereas for some it resulted in a positive outcome, there are others who are unable to accept the election results and move on in a positive direction. Certainly this has been exacerbated by the absence of the customary expressions of good will on the part of those who were unsuccessful in their pursuit of elective office. The best advice in my mind is to let go and accept the decision of the majority.

We are currently being bombarded by moment-by-moment updates on the so called "fiscal cliff," accompanied by ridiculous prognostications of the most dire consequences one could imagine. It has the all too familiar ring to it, in that it reminds us of the "chicken little" tale of our childhood. The final agreement will surely come, but only when the political will dictates a solution. That will only come once the drop-dead date has arrived and all parties can claim victory. It is rather obvious that the U.S. speaker of the House has painted himself into a corner, and that the minority leader in the U.S. Senate, having declared four years ago that his sole objective was to ensure that the president would not be re-elected to a second term, is now in a position of having to save face in an even more politically humiliating situation.

Locally, with a change of leadership in Concord, the General Court has an opportunity to re-establish its role with a balanced, thoughtful approach to governing. Perhaps an Omnibus Bill would be in order: Start with getting rid of guns in the State House; abandon the inaptly named "Right to Work" bill, which is demeaning to the working men and women of this state; restore funding to our university system, a guaranteed economic engine for our state; and fund our courts to guarantee speedy justice and implement revenue-saving modernization. Let's also get city and town elected officials working collaboratively with school boards across the state to make the New Hampshire Advantage, one where our children receive the best possible education. A new year with the new leadership in Concord affords a wonderful opportunity to get our priorities in order.

I would like to be able to focus on something other than political matters as we approach a New Year, but first we have work to do.



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## ON THE COVER

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After four terms and eight years, John Lynch is in his final days as one of New Hampshire's longest serving governors. Hippo managing editor Meghan Siegler and news reporter Jeff Mucciarone sat down with him to talk about his time in office and what he plans to do next. Cover photo by Gil Talbot, [gtalbot.com](mailto:gtalbot.com).



**ALSO THIS WEEK** Look for gift ideas throughout the paper for techies (p. 47 and 63), foodies (p. 48), book- (p. 67) or music-lovers (p. 74) and more. Plus, find a vacation camp for the kids (p. 32). And, whether you're looking to go out (p. 50) or dine in (51), here are some places that can help you skip the holiday cooking.

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# NEWS & NOTES

## Hassan asks for cuts

Gov.-elect Maggie Hassan instructed state agency heads to submit reduced budget proposals for Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015. Hassan asked for a 3-percent reduction for the Fiscal Year 2014 budget, compared to Fiscal Year 2013. She asked that agency heads provide level-funded Fiscal Year 2015 budget proposals compared with the current fiscal year. Hassan is hoping the 3-percent reductions serve as a baseline to allow her to identify priorities as she puts together her own budget proposal, due Friday, Feb. 15. Lawmakers will need to put together the next two-year budget in the coming legislative session.

“While we are beginning to see signs of recovery and revenue growth, we face fiscal uncertainty, particularly around how decisions in Washington and the so-called fiscal cliff will impact New Hampshire’s state budget, economic growth and revenues,” Hassan wrote in a memo to state agencies. “There are also investments that we must make as a state in the coming two years in order to protect the health and safety of our citizens and to build an innovative economy that will ensure long-term growth. These budget targets will give us options and flexibility to assess and respond to unfolding economic and external events.”

Hassan emphasized that these targets may be adjusted depending on revenues, federal actions and state priorities. She stressed that agencies’ budget proposals should not include cuts that will violate federal laws or regulations and should focus on identifying reductions through innovation and efficiencies, not across-the-board cuts, according to the memo.

## Norelli elected speaker

It’s official: the state Senate and the state House of Representatives chose their leaders last week. Sen. Peter Bragdon, R-Milford, will continue as Senate president for a second term. Rep. Terie Norelli, D-Portsmouth, was elected speaker of the House. Norelli previously held that post from 2006 to 2010. She replaces House Speaker William O’Brien, R-Mont Vernon. Norelli named Rep. Stephen Shurtleff,



Gov.-elect Maggie Hassan wants to be on the safe side when it comes to the state budget. Courtesy photo.

D-Concord, as her majority leader. Bragdon announced that Sen. Jeb Bradley, R-Wolfeboro, would continue as senate majority leader.

Bragdon drew the ire of some Democrats since, despite a relatively even distribution, he chose only Republicans for committee chairmanships. Norelli, on the other hand, has drawn criticism for firing House receptionist Betty Lichty in a staff shakeup.

## Winter driving website

So far the cold weather driving season has offered a smattering of wet, somewhat slippery weather. It’s sure to get worse as winter moves along. The state Department of Transportation is offering a new website that provides links to real-time weather and road conditions, as well as information on the state’s snow and ice removal policy. It also includes tips for safe winter driving. Visit [nh.gov/dot](http://nh.gov/dot) and click on “Winter Driving in New Hampshire.” The website lists Twitter alerts for major highways in the state.

## Substance abuse help

With substance abuse rates in New Hampshire higher than in other areas of the country, Easter Seals has launched a \$1 million capital campaign to expand programming and to relocate the Farnum Center, which is currently located at 235 Hanover St. in Manchester, to a new facility at 140 Queen City Ave. in Manchester. The center was established in 1981 as an affordable treatment facility for recovery from alcohol and drug dependence.

The Farnum Center currently serves 1,400 clients and their

families annually. According to the state Department of Health and Human Services, the state has the capacity to treat less than 10 percent of the population in need. The new Farnum Center, on track to open its doors in April 2013, will have the capacity to serve more than 2,200 people a year and will offer residential and transitional living programs as well as a medical detoxification unit — the first in New Hampshire, the release said.

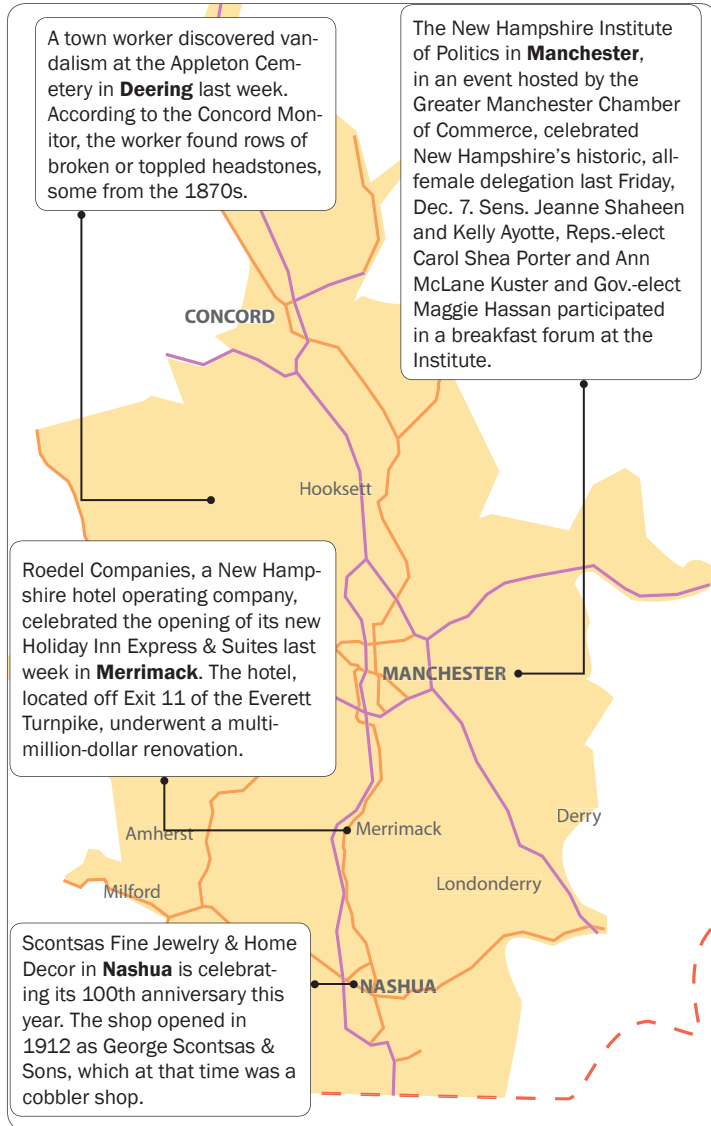
## Vote for Manch

Voters For Manchester’s Future, a new nonpartisan political action committee, launched last week in Manchester. The new group is committed to ushering in an economic, education and cultural renaissance. The group will recruit and support candidates for the 2013 city elections while also participating in the upcoming Charter Commission and Fiscal Year 2014 budget debates, the release said.

Mike Skelton, who works as a spokesman for Public Service of New Hampshire, serves as chairman of the Voters For Manchester’s Future steering committee. “Our focus is on building a coalition of like-minded people who are ready to tackle and solve big problems in a way that puts Manchester first,” Skelton said. Political strategists Sarah Crawford Stewart and Tyler Deaton are also on the group’s team.

## Citizens helps out

The Citizens Bank Foundation announced last week it will provide \$60,000, in grants rang-



ing from \$5,000 to \$15,000, to seven organizations that provide services to the homeless in New Hampshire. The money will help organizations provide housing, food and social services. According to a point-in-time count conducted in January 2012 by the state Department of Health and Human Services and the Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services, the state’s total home-

less population was 2,438. This included 1,357 sheltered, 368 unsheltered and 713 who were temporarily residing with family or friends. Of this count, 405 were families. New Horizons and Child and Family Services in Manchester receive grants, while Marguerite’s Place, Front Door Agency and Harbor Homes receive grants in Nashua. ☁

## BEST WEEK



### UNH

Democrats had indicated throughout the campaign this fall they wanted to invest in education. They apparently weren’t kidding. Newly re-elected Sen. Martha Fuller Clark got the ball rolling right out of the chute as she filed legislation last week that would restore significant funding to the University of New Hampshire that was cut during the last session. “We owe the opportunity for all of New Hampshire’s young people to access such an affordable quality education through our university system,” Fuller Clark said in a statement.

## WORST WEEK

### SENATE DEMOCRATS

With the GOP holding a relatively narrow 13-11 majority in the state Senate, it would have been reasonable for Democrats to hope that one or two Democrats would have been appointed a committee chairman. It didn’t happen. Senate President Peter Bragdon, R-Milford, who has consistently struck a moderate tone, opted for all Republicans to lead Senate committees. Even during the last two years when the GOP held a 19-5 advantage, Democrats still had one committee chairman.








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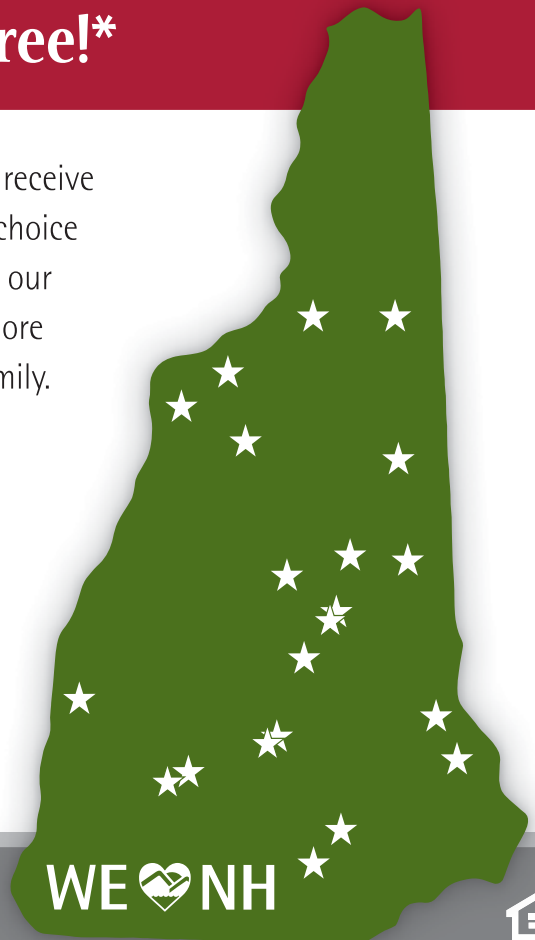


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# A fair share?

A look at Manchester’s education funding levels



By Jeff Mucciarone  
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

In accordance with state law, New Hampshire distributed \$3,450 per student for Fiscal Year 2012. Though some districts can obtain more state aid through a couple different channels, there is no choice in the matter for the state; it must spend \$3,450 per student. But on the local level, there is more choice in terms of communities’ contributions to education.

Manchester schools have been hit hard with negative headlines recently, tied mainly to overcrowding issues. As school opened this fall, some high school class sizes exceeded 40 students, well above the state standard of 30 for high schools. The overcrowding, coupled with inadequate numbers of textbooks and furniture — at least to start the year — has prompted Candia and Hooksett to consider pulling its students out of Manchester. Manchester laid off more than 160 teachers last year, which contributed to the overcrowding.

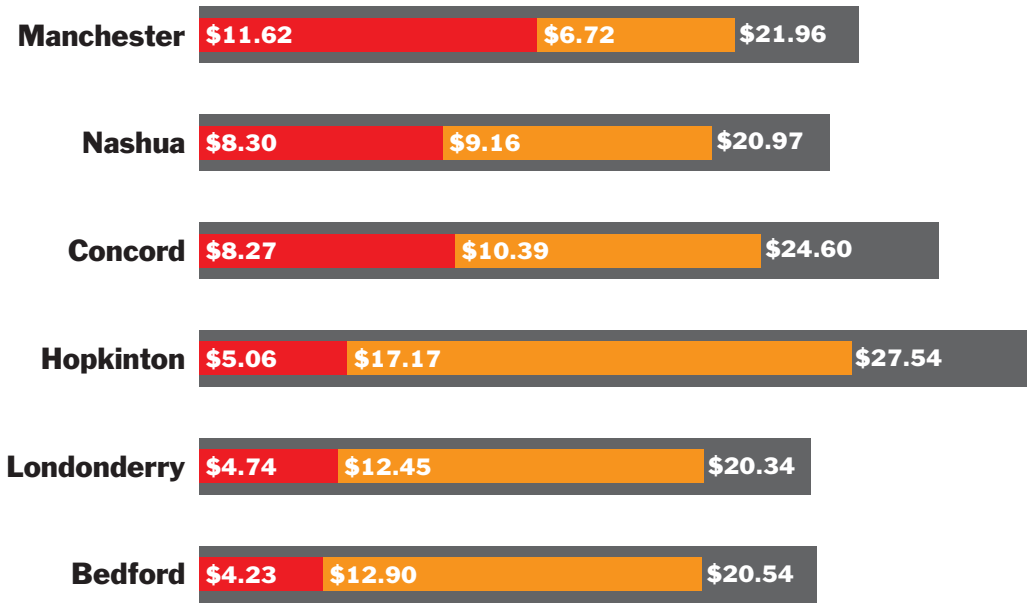
The Queen City has long taken its share of hits regarding education funding. The long-standing perception has been that even when the state directs additional aid to Manchester for education, the board of mayor and aldermen would in turn reduce the city’s contribution until education was essentially level-funded compared to the previous year. Supt. Thomas Brennan said earlier this fall he hasn’t been able to investigate whether that perception is reality — but he’s heard it.

What is reality is that the Manchester community funds education, at least in terms of per pupil expenditures, at a rate significantly lower than the state average, as well as the most comparable city in the state, Nashua. On average, across all grades, Manchester spent \$10,283 per student during the 2011-2012 school year. Nashua spent \$10,991 per student during the same school year, and the state average was \$13,159 per student. Bedford spent \$11,385 per student, while Hopkinton spent \$15,623 per student.

“We spend \$185 million on education,” said Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas, adding that that figure includes between \$20 and \$25 million from the federal government that other communities do not receive. Gatsas said that money is not included in per pupil expenditures.

Does the district just need to spend more on education?

“I think anybody would tell you they’d like more money, but I’m not too sure at this time that taxpayers are prepared to pay more,” Gatsas said.



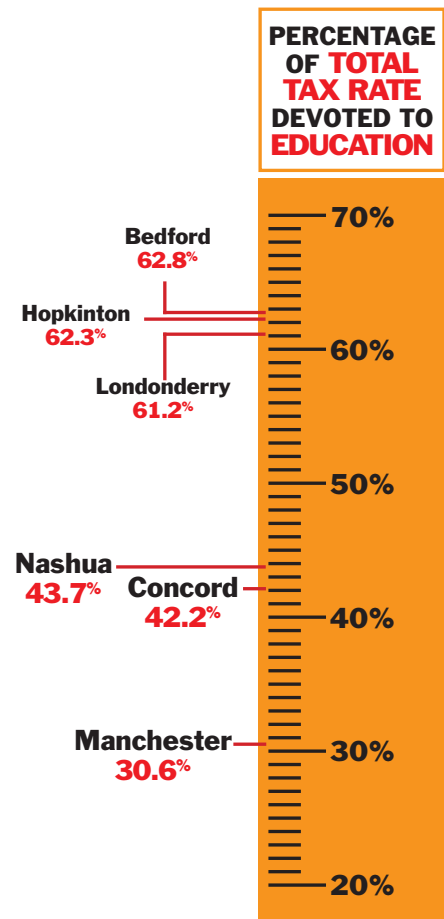
To Gatsas, looking at funding figures is secondary; student achievement supersedes all. To reach greater student achievement, Gatsas said the district needs to find the best teachers.

“Sometimes funding is not necessarily the problem,” Gatsas said. “There are ways you can get there and ways you can’t get there...”

Community property tax rates tell a story as well. Manchester’s total property tax rate of \$21.96 per thousand assessed dollars is slightly higher than the state average of \$20.22. But Manchester’s local education tax rate is \$6.72, compared to the state average of \$10.00. The average town tax rate is \$6.20, while Manchester’s city tax rate is \$11.62. On average, nearly 50 percent of communities’ property tax bills go to education, but in Manchester it’s 30 percent, according to statistics from the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies. Nashua, the most comparable city in the state, has a local education tax rate of \$9.16, compared to a \$8.30 rate for the city side.

These figures do not include the statewide property tax, which funds the state’s adequacy payments. Each community pays about the same statewide property tax rate, with some variation to allow for communities with more or less updated property assessments. That money essentially goes out one pocket and lands back in the other, said Daniel Barrick, deputy director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies.

Manchester does have a municipal tax cap now, but Barrick said the city’s education spending trends appear to predate the



tax cap. He cited the Center’s report, which followed spending trends back to 2005.

“It’s a reflection of what the taxable property is,” Barrick said. “The number doesn’t necessarily mean anything on its own.”

Another way to look at education spending is to consider per resident expenditures. In 2010, the average Manchester resident

paid \$1,221 in the local education taxes, and another \$190 in the statewide property tax, for a total of \$1,411. In Nashua, the average resident paid \$1,592 on education taxes, between the local tax rate and the statewide property tax rate. In 2010, the average New Hampshire property taxpayer spent \$2,329 on education, according to the Center for Public Policy Studies’ report.

Those figures don’t tell the whole story for Manchester though. The Queen City has unique needs, for sure, as the largest city in northern New England. The Manchester school district has the most challenges in terms of diversity -- diversity across ethnicities and diversity across socioeconomic conditions. Manchester receives more adequacy money than other communities, particularly since it has a much greater proportion of English language learners.

Gatsas has pushed for redistricting, and the board signed off on his proposal. Gatsas said discussions have begun in that direction. He sees room for schools to expand educational opportunities, without necessarily adding cost. He mentioned a possible program where students could take courses at local colleges. Gatsas suggested finding ways of allowing students more flexibility: if a student has played an instrument for 15 years, do they really need to take a class to get credit for it?

While the district has faced controversy and negativity this year, Gatsas still sees plenty to be proud of. He points to the district’s diversity, as well as the strength of the teachers in the classroom, as real positives during a difficult time.



# A rail rebirth?

Expanded rail supporters hope legislature hops on board

By Jeff Mucciarone  
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

The movement to expand passenger rail in New Hampshire is sort of at a stalemate at the moment, but supporters see at least a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

With the legislature and the Executive Council unsupportive of expanding rail during the last two years, the push for it was effectively killed. Times are changing, though. The legislative makeup will shift in January, and several incoming executive councilors campaigned in support of completing the study. Gov.-elect Maggie Hassan has also spoken in favor of expanding rail. For now, though, officials are playing the waiting game.

“We’re essentially on hold,” said Tom Mahon, chairman of the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority and chairman of the Merrimack Town Council.

Two years ago, the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority received approval for federal grant monies to complete a feasibility study examining extending passenger rail from Lowell, Mass., to Nashua, Manchester, the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport and Concord. In combined grants from the Federal Rail Administration and the Federal Transit Authority, the state was approved for \$4.1 million to pay for the study. The grant is slated to run out in December 2013.

“Both the Federal Rail Authority and the Federal Transit Authority had come together to study the corridor because they felt it was so important,” said Christopher Clement, commissioner of the state Department of Transportation. “That’s the first time they’ve teamed up like this.”

“We were very enthusiastic and we were ready to go,” said Peter Burling, a member and former chairman of the Rail Transit Authority, as well as a former state senator. “But then a storm of Republican opposition broke upon us.”

Supporters see passenger rail as a vehicle for economic growth. They point to the success of Amtrak’s Downeaster line that runs from Boston to Portland, Maine. Those opposed see another money pit destined to dramatically increase state spending, without a sufficient economic boost in return.

Clement said the two federal agencies see distinct potential for growth in the region during the next 20 years, which could be helped along by rail expansion.

“Both agencies are watching this very closely,” Clement said.

Burling said every executive councilor, with the exception of Councilor Chris

Sununu, supports the study. That, coupled with a Democratic majority in the House that has always indicated an interest in completing the study, would seem to provide some hope. Burling expects attention to be focused on the “quite-balanced” Senate to see if there is interest in going forward.

## Raising a match

To obtain the \$4.1 million in grants, the state must contribute \$390,000 to the study, which has been the sticking point, Burling said. That’s not to say there aren’t options.

Burling said he wouldn’t second-guess the legislature and how it would determine to raise the money — or not — but the initial suggestion had been to use a small portion of the state’s toll credits to raise the match. The state Department of Transportation has more than \$100 million in federal toll credits available. To use the toll credits, a joint committee of the House and Senate would have to sign off on it.

“I’m not saying they will or won’t do that, but it’s an option out there,” Burling said.

During the last session, the legislature changed the process for allocating toll credits. While DOT used to have control over how to distribute them, the legislature took over the authority for non-road or bridge projects, Mahon said.

While \$390,000 is a seemingly small piece of \$100 million, Mahon conceded there are plenty of important projects in the state, noting needed bridge work and the widening of Interstate 93.

Clement said he’s received a number of calls from individuals asking what it would take for DOT to bring the issue back.

“We are starting to look at requirements to bring it back to the Executive Council,” Clement said.

Burling expects lawmakers and state officials to be making decisions on when to bring the matter forward again in the next couple months.

“People like the idea of it, and they’re looking forward to the opportunity to get on a train and go south,” Mahon said.

While his sense is that the public supports expanding rail, Mahon said there has been some reluctance since the expansion would inevitably require an operating subsidy on the part of the state.

## Just a study

Completing the study doesn’t tie the state to anything, other than access to the best available information, Burling said.

“We’re just talking about completing a



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## NEWS & NOTES



The train could be a-coming. Rail supporters look to build momentum with a new legislature set to take over in January. Photo by DJ Sturm.

study, an alternative analysis," Burling said. "The study might say it's not a great idea. Or it might say, 'Yup, this is a good idea. At a time when the price of gas is going up, roads are falling apart, having alternative methods of transportation between Boston and Concord is a good thing.'"

"It's always a matter of where the actual footprints meet the road," Burling added.

The study would take 18 months to complete and would presumably provide an analysis of expanding rail all the way to Concord, along with each piece in between. It could reveal that expanding passenger rail to Nashua makes sense, or it could suggest the most important connection is at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.

"If we want to have [rail], we need to decide and make a commitment to completing the study," Burling said.

The rail lines would need to be upgraded to accommodate passenger trains, but that would help freight trains as well, which Burling said would be able to travel faster on newer lines. He sees a potential economic boon regarding freight trains and he was hoping the study would look at that.

"It will give us data and then we can have discussions to make decisions on whether to move forward," Clement said.

"It is an issue that slides on two surfaces," Burling said. "Think of it as a puck on an icy pond."

In that, Burling said interest and support for expanding rail slides back and forth with the price of fuel and with ease of operation on the state's roads and highways. In the 1970s, the Boston and Maine Railroad was struggling; it was difficult for them to compete with a highway system that was operating well below capacity, while the price of fuel was low and roads were new.

"It's sliding on a whole bunch of different issues, all of which are constantly in change," Burling said.

Burling pointed to a 2007 University of New Hampshire Survey Center poll that

reported that 71 percent of residents wanted rail service.

## Ticking clock

While officials suggested it might be possible to extend the December 2013 deadline for the study, that's far from a certainty. Clement said whether the grant's timeline can be extended is one of the questions that still needs to be answered.

"Both agencies have been very patient," Mahon said. "They haven't been clamoring to have the money returned. We're working under the premise that they will be brought up again after the first of the year."

"At some point, the \$4.1 million will maybe be withdrawn or transferred some place," Burling said.

In recent months, Vermont invested \$60 million in a rail line from White River Junction to Burlington, while Maine is spending \$37 million to extend passenger rail as well. Massachusetts is spending \$150 million to increase the speed of trains from Boston to Worcester, Burling said.

"Every other sister state and Quebec are making huge investments," Burling said. "If they see loose dollars lying around, it will be gone."

Rail Transit Authority members would be contacting members of the legislature and the Executive Council, as well as Hassan, to talk about the necessary steps regarding the study.

"Given the way rail has taken off on the western and eastern side of the state, I don't think a reasonable mind would think some type of similar service from Boston to Concord...wouldn't work," Burling said.

While officials see some promise now, Mahon cautioned that if the state embarks on the path of rail expansion, it would be a lengthy journey. If the go-ahead is given to expand rail, he said there would be a roughly three-year lead time from the start of construction to the start of operation.

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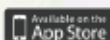
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## NEWS & NOTES Q&A

# Steering the ship

Democratic chair oversees a season of wins

Ray Buckley, chairman of the state Democratic party, saw his party bounce back in a big way in November. "New Hampshire is truly a purple state, and I think while Republicans will win offices ... I don't believe we'll have that sort of tsunami ever again," Buckley said.

**Q:** *Leading up to the election last month, did you see things swinging this far in Democrats' favor?*

We certainly knew there was that possibility. We were aware of that. We worked so hard to recruit top quality candidates like Chris Pappas for Executive Council, when we saw races that looked like they were winnable. That was the case in the state Senate and the House as well. We also worked very hard to limit any friction in any of the primaries so we would have a united party.

*Bipartisanship has come up from both sides [since the election]. Do you expect the two parties to be able to work together?*

Bipartisanship always comes up when Democrats win like this. ... Our leaders, by nature, are people who are bipartisan, who will work in a fashion where they are more results-oriented than focused on scoring political points. ... When you look at the leaders in the House and Senate, as well as executive councilors, you're not going to see that sort of behavior that you saw the last two years ... It's just not in their DNA.

*Do you see potential on any issues for the two sides to work together?*

Yes. In my 18 years as a legislator ... I was able to pass over 150 laws that I sponsored. That was by working in a bipartisan fashion. I would dare say you'll see very few partisan issues coming up this term.

*How do you think the state party is viewed in New Hampshire?*

I don't think political parties are necessarily viewed highly. People see parties as what they are: political, partisan instruments of government. Our job isn't always the job that voters hear lots of positive things about.

*How does [it] help that you have had stability in leadership?*

I'm able to bring years of experience that is not comparable on the Republican side, having served as executive director [of the state party] for four years in the early 1990s, and then as vice chairman, before I was elected chairman for six years. I spent 18 years in the House. I served as Manchester city chair, Hillsborough Democrats, and on the national committee. Those years or decades of experience, when you look on



Ray Buckley. Courtesy photo.

the Republican side, there just isn't somebody who has ... had all those different roles. It gives me a unique perspective. ... I met John Lynch and Sylvia Larsen and Jeanne Shaheen when I was 14 or 15

years old. It's a different level of relationship. I don't know who on the Republican side necessarily has had that sort of personal history with senior elected officials. I worked with Maggie Hassan as a state senator and now she's a personal friend.

*Gov.-elect Hassan, what type of governor do you expect her to be?*

I think she is very much a results-oriented person. In her first term in the Senate, when Democrats were in the minority, she was able to work with Republicans. ... She is an incredibly, incredibly talented and smart person who brings a lot to the table, very much in the mold of Gov. Lynch and Jeanne Shaheen.

*What is your take away from Gov. Lynch's time as governor?*

It's not just historic that he served eight years. It's historic that his steady leadership guided the state through the worst economic crisis we've faced in our lifetime. Any other governor would have reacted in a completely different manner. These past two years with Bill O'Brien and the tea partiers, he showed significant courage to stand up for New Hampshire values against these folks that were swept in in 2010.

*How much do you think O'Brien opened the door for Democrats?*

If I were to pinpoint one single thing of the many, many, many things that caused the victory, Bill O'Brien would be at the top of the list. What was curious to me ... was that the mainstream media was consistently critical of the state party for focusing on Bill O'Brien, when we all knew all along he was going to be the entity that was going to [help us to] victory. His first move, on day one, was to strip the rule on guns in the gallery. They jumped right out of the gate with an agenda that wasn't respectful of New Hampshire values. That pretty much set our course for victories.

— Jeff Mucciarone

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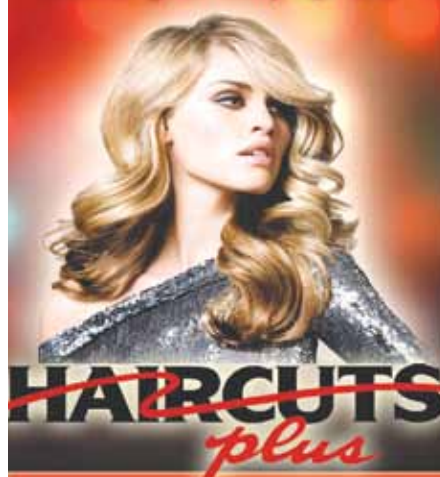
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## NEWS & NOTES

## QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

## Christmas light thief?

Perhaps you should chain your Christmas lights on your tree; the Concord Monitor reported that someone stole four 50-foot cords of multi-color lights around a freshly-cut, 16-foot tree in Boscawen not once but three times in the last several days.

**OOL Score: -1**

**Comment:** Fire Chief Ray Fisher had purchased some more lights to string along the tree after the first theft but the Grinches returned.

## NH: last in protecting kids from tobacco

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that New Hampshire spend \$19.2 million per year to have an effective, comprehensive tobacco prevention program. But right now, the state doesn't allocate anything for tobacco prevention and cessation. As a result, it ranks last among the states in the funding of tobacco prevention programs, according to [tobaccofreekids.org](http://tobaccofreekids.org).

**OOL Score: -2**

**Comment:** The \$19.2 million represents a percentage of the \$256 million of tobacco-generated revenue in the state.

## Concord, as winter vacation hotspot

According to Livability.com, Concord is one of the top 10 winter vacation destinations in the country. The company's list highlights communities that embrace cool climates and offer residents a wealth of outdoor recreation, arts and culture and dining and entertainment options. Editors narrowed the field by choosing only those cities with an average winter temperature below freezing and an average annual snowfall of more than 25 inches. Concord placed ninth on the list. Anchorage, Alaska, was No. 1.

**QOL Score: +2**

**Comment:** “Winter can be a great time to travel because often hotels and attractions are more willing to offer discounts to get people in the door,” said John Hood, spokesman for Livability.com, in a statement. “But just because a city has cold weather does not make it a good winter vacation destination.”

**By the way, that wine was never missing**

The state Liquor Commission drew headlines and criticism earlier this year when reports surfaced that it had “lost” 300 cases of wine worth about \$100,000. Well, according to reports, it turns out the wine was never missing; it was just an accounting error. Attorney General Michael Delaney’s office conducted 35 interviews to get to the bottom of the matter, according to a WMUR report. Apparently, a spreadsheet was misinterpreted, leading to the discrepancy, the article said.

**OOL Score: -1**

**Comment:** *Well, QOL is glad that took the better part of the year.*

**QOL score: 83**

**Net change: -2**

**QOL this week: 81**

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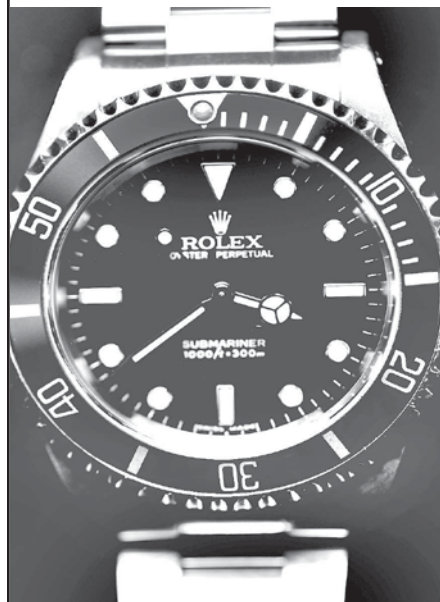
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## Gifts for your favorite sporties

The Christmas season is upon us, so it's time to hand out presents to those in sports who've been naughty and nice during the last year.

**Wes Welker:** The two-year, \$20 million-plus deal you have earned for beyond stellar production in New England, and if Coach B is too **Ebenezer Scrooge** to realize he can't get by without you, then you get it somewhere else in a place where you can stick it to Bill upon your return the most — like maybe in Denver with **Peyton Manning**.

**Bob Kraft:** The common sense to realize that sometimes, (a) you've got to reward the selfless ones like Wes for the benefit of the big picture even if it does cut a couple extra million out of the cap, (b) the gumption to overrule the coach if he objects, and (c) if, like **Demi Moore** in *A Few Good Men*, he strenuously objects, a free pass to cuff him upside the head like **Gibbs** does when **DiNozzo** acts like the back end of a horse in NCIS.

**Hope Solo:** A publicist who can help you let the public know you're not as bad as you seem, and if you actually are, then one who can let you keep it to yourself.

**To golfers everywhere:** At least one curliecue shot in the bag like **Bubba Watson** made in sudden death at the Masters to get you out of a big jam in the season ahead. **Larry Mize** still has the greatest clutch shot in Master's history — but that baby wasn't far off by Bubba.

**Josh Beckett:** A copy of the **Bill Murray** film *Groundhog Day* to remind you that having a little humility can help put bad things behind you so you don't have to keep reliving them over and over through the entire next season. And if that doesn't work, a picture of **Sidney Wicks** to hang in your locker.

**Donald (have no) Fehr:** An overdose blast of laughing gas next time you go to the dentist, cause I've NEVER seen you smile in the almost 30 years you've been visible to the public working for baseball and then

hockey in the labor issues.

**Gary Bettman:** A dream with him starring as **Ebenezer Scrooge** in the scariest version ever made of *A Christmas Carol* that's so realistic he wakes up with the cold sweats and can't shake them until this latest labor abomination is over.

**Patriots fans:** Access to the fountain of youth so they can give **Tom Brady** a couple of tall-glass fills to let us watch real greatness for five years behind the five more he says he wants to play.

**Bill Belichick:** *The Idiot's Guide to Why the Blitz Wreaks Havoc on the Bad Guys' Passing Game*, "cause I don't know about you, but I miss the days when he blitzed a lot more and the defense won the game and all he asked Brady to be was a dependable game manager. Also, thanks for the best football experience you could ask for, unless of course, he blitzed more.

**Jacoby Ellsbury:** A healthy year wherever you wind-up in 2012 so you can show one and all that 2010 wasn't the fluke some are now saying it was.

**Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds:** 406 votes in the Hall of Fame voting because losing by just one vote would get under the skin more than getting the more likely 21.3 percent.

**Jon Lester:** A copy of the film *A Clockwork Orange* and a threat that if you don't stop nibbling and use the power pitches to throw strikes, we're going to do a baseball version of the aversion therapy the British authorities used to change the criminal ways of **Malcom McDowell** in that movie. The card would have a simple message — Just Throw Strikes!

**Roger Goodell:** A real-life version of the system restore on my computer, because after bumbling your way through the player lockout, Bounty Gate, the referee lockout and now potentially eliminating the kick-off, after a strong early start to your time as commissioner, the image certainly could use a reboot.

**Pat Summitt:** Surprising good health in the face of a scary illness and uncertain future.

**NBA basketball fans:** That the next commissioner gets that the guy who starts the fight should get double the penalty awarded to the guy who slugs him back — because if that first punch doesn't get thrown, neither will the second one.

**Rajon Rondo:** A film of how **Don Nelson** shot-put his way to shooting 76.5 percent from the foul line in his 13-year career — because if he can do it with that, you might want to try it too, to eliminate the flaw that makes you think twice about taking it to the basket in a tight playoff game.

**L.A. Lakers:** After the **Dwight Howard** contract is done, three straight years with the 21<sup>st</sup>-century version of **Darrall Imhoff** at center, because after having a family line that includes **George Mikan**, **Wilt**, **Kareem**, **Shaq** and now Howard, it's time for a return to the mid-'60s, when Imhoff was in the middle and **Jerry West** and **Elgin Baylor** could never get by Russell and the Celtics.

**Elgin Baylor:** A statue at the Staples Center — because if Shaq, the logo, Kareem, Magic and seemingly a cast of thousands gets one there — the inventor of the NBA's aerial game and a certified Laker great, should have gotten one the same day the logo got his. Earth calling Dr. Buse!

**Ben Cherington:** A step up in the Red Sox rebuild that includes another strong starter, **Josh Hamilton** for the middle of the line-up, and a shortstop who can hit.

**To All Of You:** A happy, healthy and joyous holiday season.

Dave Long can be emailed at [dlong@hippopress.com](mailto:dlong@hippopress.com). He hosts *Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long* from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM — The Game 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.

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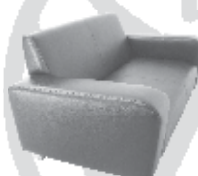
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## Sports Glossary

**A Clockwork Orange:** Strange fictional concoction, first a 1962 book and then a 1971 film by bizzaro English director **Stanley Kubrick** – who nonetheless has an impressive string of similarly out-there films like *The Shining*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *Spartacus*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Full Metal Jacket* and the great cold war spoof *Dr. Strangelove*. It follows the tale of violent youths in England reprogrammed with “aversion therapy” to be repulsed by violence and, accidentally, Beethoven’s “5<sup>th</sup> Symphony” with surprising result. Carried the dreaded X rating when it came out, which of course led scheming high schoolers of the day to find fake IDs so they could flock to see it.

**Ebenezer Scrooge:** A character in the film *A Christmas Carol* portraying a miserly skin flint who wreaks havoc on all he has power over. It’s part played in the sports version through the years by White Sox owner **Charles Comiskey** in the Black Sox era; **Walter O’Malley**, who stole the Dodgers from Brooklyn, penurious owner **Charles O. Finley** who liquidated the A’s after winning three world titles in the early 1970s and who legendary LA Times columnist **Jim Murray** once said of, “He’s a self-made man and he worships his creator,” Sox owner **Haywood Sullivan**, who let Fred Lynn and Rick Burleson walk into the first free agency period and lost **Carlton Fisk** when he forgot to mail his contract in time; and **Donald Fehr** throughout his time as labor leader for baseball and hockey players.

**Larry Mize:** Perpetrator to arguably the greatest clutch shot in golf history when after an awful shot to the 11<sup>th</sup> green he buried a bump-and-run chip from 50 yards away to win the 1987 Masters on the second hole of sudden death. While it was Mize’s only win in a major, it was just one of an unbelievable streak of bad luck that saw several major championships slip from the grasps of **Greg Norman** in the most excruciating possible fashion. Most attributed that streak to always chocking, but this time he was 20 feet away for birdie and was undone by an amazing shot.

**SPORTS** DAVE LONG’S PEOPLE, PLACES & OTHER STUFF

## B.C. has a good day

**The Big Story:** As Paul Simon wrote a long time ago, one man’s ceiling can be another man’s floor. In this case the floor goes to deposed Boston College Football Coach **Frank Spaziani**, who got the door at the heights after four mostly down years. The ceiling goes to **Ryan Day**, who continues his climb to higher places in the college football world after returning to the area as the new offensive coordinator of the Eagles. The ex-Central and UNH QB got the job by following his boss at Temple to BC after **Steve Addazio** was named to replace Sapziani.

**Sports 101:** After winning his 201<sup>st</sup> game in Miami, **Bill Belichick** went by **Dan Reeves** into eighth place all-time in wins by an NFL coach including playoffs. Who are the coaches ahead of him on that list?

**Nick of Tyme Award:** To St. A’s hoopster **Kierra Moore** for burying a lay-up with a tick and a half left to give the Hawks a 58-56 win at St. Mikes on Thursday, which were her ninth and 10th points off the bench.

**Rest In Peace:** The Queen City lost a one of a kind with the passing of **Bobby Johnson** at 84 last week. He was a boxer of distinction, winning 36 of his 42 fights as a pro when boxing ranked up there with baseball and horse racing as the most pres-

tigious sports in America. Later he owned the famous eatery Bobby’s Lunch, which housed a sensational collection of photos relating to his career, boxing and well-known folks who stopped by the landmark restaurant where Billy’s Sports Bar now resides. Thanks to his prowess as a boxer, he was an early inductee in the Queen City Hall of Fame.

**Sports 101 Answer:** The seven coaches ahead of Bill Belichick on the all-time wins lists, including playoffs, are **Don Shula** (347), **George Halas** (324), **Tom Landry** (270), **Curley Lambeau** (229), **Paul Brown** (222), **Chuck Noll** (209), **Marty Schottenheimer** (205)

**On This Date – Dec. 13: 1936** – The Redskins play their final game as Boston’s NFL team in a 21-6 loss to the Packers. **1956** – The back-stabbing Brooklyn Dodgers trade **Jackie Robinson** to the arch enemy Giants and in response Robinson retires. **1996** – After saying his goal was to move closer to his Houston home, free agent **Roger Clemens** signs to play with Toronto. **2007** – The Mitchell Report is issued detailing steroid use in baseball. **Births: 1924** – First black player in the American League **Larry Doby**. **1943** – Hall of Famer and Red Sox Buffalo Head member **Ferguson Jenkins**. **Deaths: 2006** – AFL founder and owner of the Kansas City Chiefs **Lamar Hunt**.

### The Numbers

**0** – wins for the year for Winnacunnet after a 48-40 opening night loss to Londonderry when **Alzia Simpson** led the way with 12, which is the first time that’s happened to the girl’s high school basketball dynasty in a long time.

**4** - games in the 17-year, 51,000-minute career of **Kevin Garnett** in which he failed to grab at least one rebound after coming

up with a donut against the ‘76ers at the Garden on Saturday night.

**17** – points scored by **McKenzie Brown** to lead the Bedford girls when they got their first ever win over Central on Friday in a 55-41 victory. **Megan Cleary** had 18 for the Green.

**31** – game-high and career-high points **Hannah Comeau** scored to go along with eight rebounds as she led Derryfield School

to a 49-39 win over Nute in NHIAA basketball action.

**40** – number of saves from Monarchs goalie **Peter Mannino** Saturday night, though still not enough to get the struggling M’s a win in a 3-2 loss to Worcester.

**759,000** – dollars paid at auction for the No. 56 Yankee jersey worn by **Don Larson** when he pitched the only perfect game in World Series history vs Brooklyn in Game 5 in 1956.

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# GOODBYE, GOVERNOR

**GOV. JOHN LYNCH HEADING BACK TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

By Jeff Mucciarone  
& Meghan Siegler

Craig Benson swung into the governor's office in 2003 with a businessman's swagger. He had a track record of business success and had just knocked off former state Sen. Bruce Keough and former U.S. Sen. Gordon Humphrey in the Republican primary. Benson famously said, after his election victory, that there was a new sheriff in town. But the swagger didn't last through his first term. Benson and his administration became mired in a political scandal involving the handling of sexual assault allegations against then-Attorney General Peter Heed.

Another candidate saw an opportunity.

John Lynch, himself a successful businessman who had never run for office before, ultimately decided to challenge Benson in 2004 in what turned out to be the most expensive gubernatorial election in New Hampshire history. Lynch won a narrow victory, the first of what would be a record four terms in office. It was a politically risky move for Lynch. After all, it had been more than 75 years since the state had rejected an incumbent governor after just one term.

There is no swagger when it comes to Lynch. There is little partisanship either. Lynch has remained centrist in his approach to governing, sometimes drawing the ire of Democrats for not choosing a more progressive path. He was hesitant to sign off on things like gay marriage and medicinal marijuana. He preferred to focus on the economy, jobs and education — perhaps his marquee legislative achievement was raising the state's compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18.

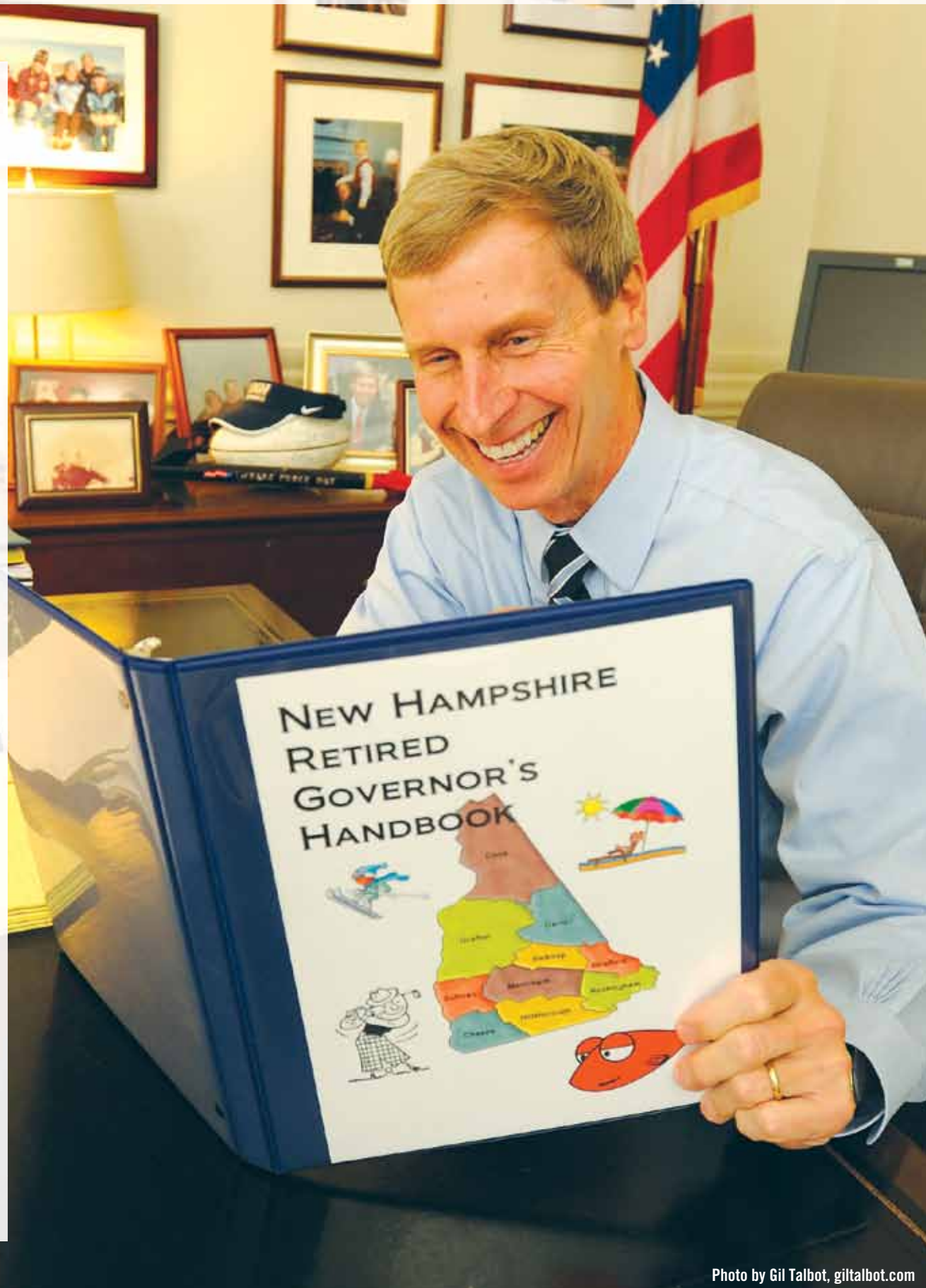


Photo by Gil Talbot, giltalbot.com



In 2010, the legislature changed dramatically, and it appeared that Lynch, even with his nonpartisan tendencies, would provide little check against the Republican stampede in the legislature. Forever a moderate Democrat who constantly preached the importance of working with everyone, regardless of political stripes, Lynch found himself staring down the barrel of three-to-one Republican majorities in the House and the Senate. Lynch said he tried to work with legislators, keeping regular communication with Senate leadership, but House leadership wasn't willing to engage him. While the GOP could override any veto by Lynch, he stuck his neck out on a few issues, notably right-to-work legislation and a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative repeal effort.

Lynch was known, perhaps best, for his presence whenever natural disasters occurred. When floods ravaged New Hampshire in 2005, Lynch was there. When an ice storm left thousands of people without power in 2008, Lynch was there, comforting people. The same was true when a tornado struck in 2008, and when hurricanes hit the state in each of the last two years. Arnie Arnesen, a liberal-leaning pundit, joked that Lynch's portrait in the Statehouse should include his cell phone, because of his willingness to hand out his cell phone number to seemingly anyone who needed help. (He told NHPR's Laura Knoy last week he still gets calls from people he's given his number to.)

Lynch's tenure is coming to an end now. The mild-mannered Lynch made the announcement last year he would not seek a record fifth term. He's set to be succeeded by Gov.-elect Maggie Hassan, who attempted to strike a centrist tone like Lynch's during her campaign.

Lynch sat down with us (reporter Jeff Mucciarone and managing editor Meghan Siegler) in late November to reflect on his time in office.

**Jeff Mucciarone:** *You're getting toward the end of four terms. What are you thinking? What are your thoughts on the last eight years?*

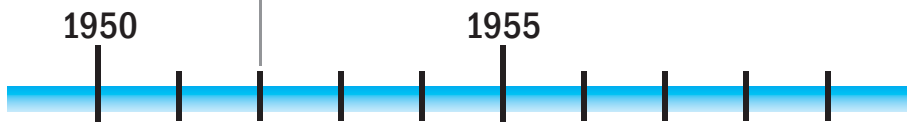
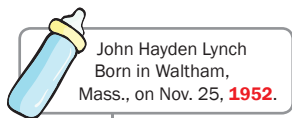
It's gone by very quickly. I remember when I was first elected people would tell me, and particularly former governors, that the time ... would go by very fast, and it certainly has. And as I look back on eight years, I think what I've tried to do is bring people together, put partisan politics to one side and solve problems and create opportunities for the people of New Hampshire. So where there have been successes, I think it's been a result of bringing people together. And we've had a number

“*...as I look back on eight years, I think what I've tried to do is bring people together, put partisan politics to one side and solve problems and create opportunities for the people of New Hampshire.*”

[of successes] in a variety of different areas — education, for example. The fact that we've been able to reduce our high school dropout rate at a time when high school dropout rates are literally of epidemic proportions in other states, we've reduced ours to a remarkably low 1 percent. And we got that legislation passed to raise the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 in part by bringing people together

and letting people understand the importance of education and the importance of giving students every opportunity that they could get to graduate from high school. ... The schools and the principals and the teachers and the staff really rallied around that goal and developed, for themselves, programs to keep the students interested in staying in school, so I think it was really a result of the work that was done in the schools themselves. But that's just one example of how I've tried to put party politics to one side and just try to bring people together to try to solve problems.

**Meghan Siegler:** *Do you think that trend can continue? Do you think people will work together?*



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### GOODBYE, GOVERNOR

I hope so. I think the people of New Hampshire expect us to work together. As I travel around, and I am out all the time...I'm with people, and people tell me, over and over and over again, that they want us to work together. That's what upsets them about Washington, the fact that people don't work together in Washington, that it's become way too polarized, way too partisan. So I certainly hope that, with this legislature and I'm sure it will be with the next governor, that they'll find ways to work together.

[In a wave election in 2010, Republicans amassed veto-proof majorities in the state Senate and the state House of Representatives, while also taking all five Executive Council seats.]

**JM:** *The legislative makeup the past two years was different from...the previous two terms for you. Was it frustrating working with that legislature?*

It wasn't with the Senate because I communicated with the Senate on a regular basis. And I think what's really important, in order to be able to work together, is you have to be able to build trust. You have to earn trust. You have to develop trust. And that doesn't happen unless you communicate with each other on a regular basis. ... That communication didn't happen with House leadership [led by House Speaker William O'Brien, R-Mont Vernon] because they didn't want to communicate. Ever since I was first elected, during the legislative session, we would have the speaker and the senate president and myself meet weekly and so it happened regardless of whether it was Democrats or Republicans. And those meetings stopped, unfortunately, with this last legislative leadership being elected.

**JM:** *In any way did the last two years set the state back?*

I think New Hampshire is a pretty resilient state and I think this next legislature, which I believe is going to be more centrist because I also think the people of New Hampshire are fairly moderate, so I think

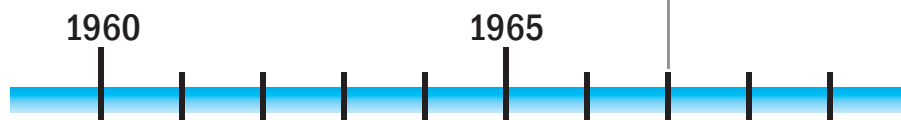
this legislature working with Gov.-elect Hassan will be more moderate and centrist in their approach. So I think they'll be able to move New Hampshire forward. I think this past legislature did some things that probably did not move New Hampshire forward, like their severe cuts to public higher education, and I also believe public higher education needs to be accessible and affordable to the people of New Hampshire, to the families and the children. ... If we continue to invest in education, that's the best way that we can ensure a strong economy. Obviously, New Hampshire, our

“  
*I tell people interested in running for governor, I say, 'If you like people, then it's a great job.' And I further say to them, 'If you don't like people, well, you probably shouldn't run for governor of the State of New Hampshire...'*”

economy has been better than many other states'. Our unemployment rate has been significantly below the national average. As I meet with business people, business people tell me they still need workers. They still need workers to fill jobs with the requisite skills and talents and qualifications. The way that happens is through education. Since I was elected governor, we reinstated job training, for example, and it's a collaborative partnership with the community college system. We've trained over 14,500 workers in New Hampshire, keeping those good jobs right here in our state.



Met his wife when they were teenagers working at Friendly's Ice Cream in 1967.





GOODBYE, GOVERNOR

**MS:** *With your focus on education... are you going to continue to be involved in [education] in any other way?*

It's possible I might do some teaching. My expectation now is I'll go back into the private sector, which is what I did before I took this job. I was in the manufacturing business and I would expect I would go back to doing that, but maybe also do some teaching.

**MS:** *What would you be teaching?*

You know, one area that I'm interested in is the differences and similarities between running a business and running state government. And I've had experience in both areas, so it would be a natural fit for me to talk about the differences and similarities between those two.

**JM:** *What are some?*

Well, it's really interesting. We could talk about this forever because I've already taught classes on this before. One is you have to build a team, in both cases. And that's what I did at [Knoll Manufacturing, where Lynch served as CEO and president from 1994 to 2001] and that's what I did as governor. I really had to build teams in both places, because you don't get work accomplished on your own, you get it accomplished by developing a team of good people, who really care about the constituencies they're meant to serve. And right now in state government, for example, we have a great group of department heads. They don't have any political agenda. They just want to work hard to serve the constituencies. And they work very well together. I tried to do the same thing at Knoll. When I started at Knoll, nobody got along. They didn't like each other. They didn't trust each other. So I had to build a team. That's an important similarity. Another similarity, is understanding who your customer is. You have customers in the private sector, you have customers in the public sector. Who is your customer? What are their needs? And how do you meet their needs in the most efficient manner possible? Another similar-

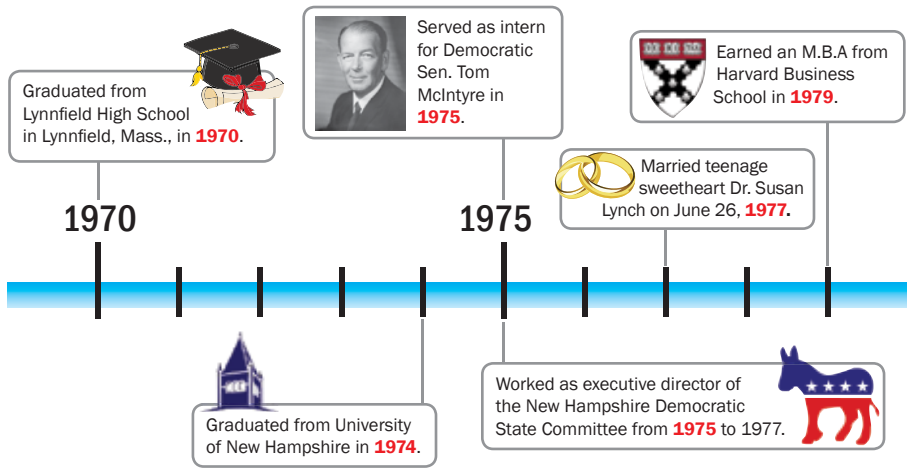
ity, which I talk about a lot, when I started at Knoll, Knoll was losing \$1 million per week. Knoll lost \$50 million in each of the years in the early '90s. To make a long story short, Knoll started to turn around and I gave a presentation to Westinghouse — Knoll was part of Westinghouse at the time — senior managers, and I said, the way you make money, if your costs are less than your sales, you make money. It's pretty straightforward concept. But it's true in government. Your costs have to be less than your revenues in order to ensure a balanced budget. So that's another similarity. The differences are many. If you're in the private sector, you get to choose your customer. And in the public sector, you don't choose your customer because all the citizens are your customer. In the private sector, you get to choose your product. You don't in the public sector. You don't get to choose how to price your product. ... And the decision making process is very different in the public sector. There are three branches of government. Obviously, the legislature is very involved in the decision-making process.

**JM:** *Are you looking forward to getting back into the private sector?*

I'm looking forward to it. But I'm going to be a little bit sad about leaving. You can't invest a lot of your time and energy into this kind of effort over eight years and not feel a little bit sad about leaving.

**JM:** *What are you going to miss?*

I will miss, although I will figure out another constituency to work with, being with the people. That's what I've really enjoyed. Being with people. I love being with people. That's what I do every day. And I tell people interested in running for governor, I say, "If you like people, then it's a great job." And I further say to them, "If you don't like people, well, you probably shouldn't run for governor of the state of New Hampshire, because you're with people all the time."



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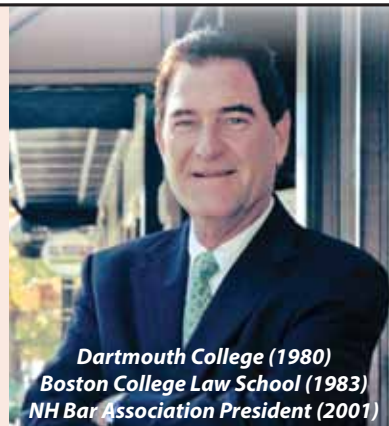
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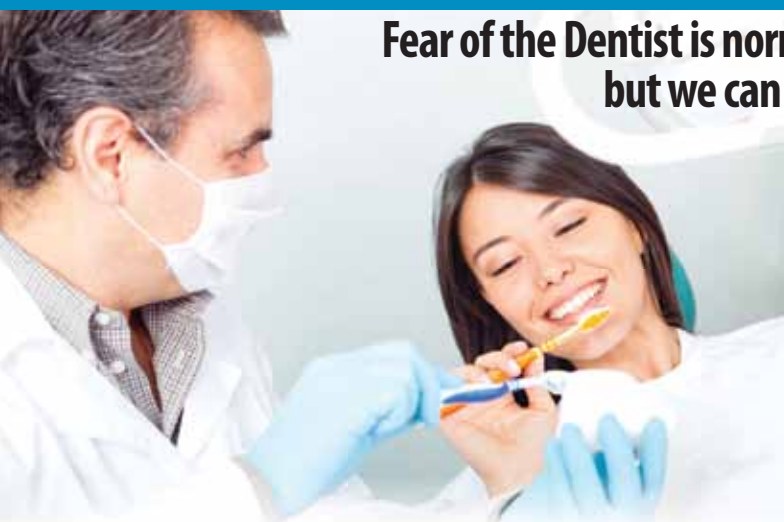
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## GOODBYE, GOVERNOR



Gov. John Lynch says he'll miss being with people the most. Courtesy photo.

**MS:** *I'm sure you can't go anywhere without people talking to you.*

Even my day is just full of meetings with people. It could be state representatives, state senators, department heads or it could be fourth-graders who regularly come to the Statehouse as part of their fourth-grade educational experience. So I'm with people all the time, which is what I really enjoy. And I enjoy helping people. Helping people, trying to solve problems for them, trying to create a difference, a positive difference in their lives. And whether that's through legislation, that could be pulling people together to respond to a myriad of natural disasters we've had here in New Hampshire or bringing businesses to New Hampshire. We've had some real success bringing significant businesses to our state, which again, is a result of getting people to work together.

[Lynch has always tried to maintain a largely apolitical status. Democrats and Republicans have been critical of him for seemingly waiting to take a stand on an issue until he absolutely has to. Lynch has countered that he has taken a strong leadership role on a number of issues, notably education-related issues.]

**JM:** *Do you expect to be a voice for the Democratic party in New Hampshire going forward?*

You know, I would like to be a good ex-governor, a good former governor, you know, much like I think Walter Peterson was as a former governor, so I would expect that I would have a very, very low profile, in terms of the political world.

**JM:** *What's your take on the election, the results, but also, what was it like for you to not have to participate in it?*

Well, it's interesting. A number of people came up to me who had obviously been voting, particularly the last eight years, and they told me it was a little bit uncomfortable not seeing my name on the ballot. [laughing] Even the fourth graders, who I met eight years ago, who are now ready to vote, they, I think, were a little disappointed you know, having known me for that long, for many of them I was the only governor they've known. ... I was fine with it. But it was a little bit unusual to have me sit out on the sidelines and watch everything else go on. I am very comfortable with it.

**JM:** *What's your take on the results?*

I think people in New Hampshire want us to govern from the middle. I really do. And I think when the legislature and/or the governor governs from the extreme, I think the people of New Hampshire recalibrate their votes and wanting the government to move back to the center, which is what I think most people are. Most people are in the middle, and I think that's what the people of New Hampshire, in a very strong message, sent that to their elected officials. They want us to be moderate, centrist and govern from the middle.

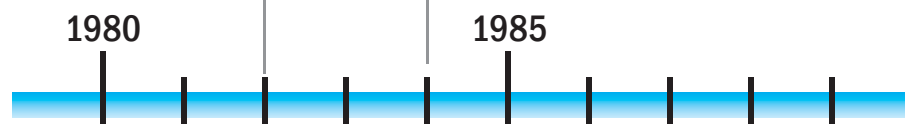
**MS:** *As you're leaving, is there anything that you didn't get done that you'd hoped to achieve?*

I think we made progress in a lot of areas. I think, like anything else, you make progress but there's more that you would have liked to have done. With infrastructure, for example...one of the big projects in New Hampshire is the widening of I-93, which we hear about all the time. So we've made some real progress. We brought the wid-

Worked as director of admissions at the Harvard Business School from 1982 to 1986.



Earned a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, graduating in 1984.





GOODBYE, GOVERNOR

ening up to Exit 3 from the Massachusetts border and working on the interchange at Exit 5, but I would have liked to have had that project completed. We did the widening of the Spaulding Turnpike, which was a very important project, important for public safety, economic development and quality of life, and that got completed, which is really going to open up economic development from Rochester all the way to Portsmouth. We completed open road tolling in Hampton, which is a wonderful feature, but we haven't finished that in Hooksett yet. That won't be done until June of 2013. With the dropout rate, we had a goal of zero dropouts in New Hampshire. I'd still like to get to that goal. And I think if people continue on the progress that we have built, we'll be able to achieve that role. With health care,

“*I think this past legislature did some things that probably did not move New Hampshire forward, like their severe cuts to public higher education.*”

we've done a lot of good things with health care. In New Hampshire, for example, I signed a bill into law allowing children to stay on their parents' plan up until age 26, way before Obamacare came out. We went forward with managed care, accountable care organizations, electronic medical records, but there's still more to do in terms of making health care more affordable and accessible and lowering the overall cost.

[Following the 2010 elections, many thought Lynch and the legislative leadership might find common ground with an education funding amendment. The state's system has been controversial since the state Supreme Court took funding control away from the legislature and instead mandated the state to provide the cost

of an adequate education for every student. Lynch had wanted an amendment that would have restored the responsibility to fund education to the legislature, but which would have also allowed lawmakers to target aid to the neediest students and districts.]

**JM:** *You introduced language for an education funding amendment last year. ... Any regrets on how that's been handled either from you or the legislature?*

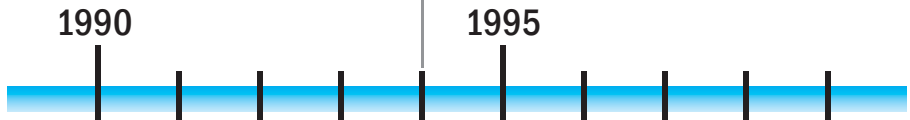
Well, you know, I'm disappointed we didn't get one. But the amendment that I wanted was an amendment that would reaffirm the state's responsibility for public education, but at the same time allow us to direct more money to the communities and children who need it more than others. I still believe that's the right approach to education funding. If you believe that education is about opportunity and that every child deserves an opportunity to get a good education regardless of where the child lives or the economic background of the child or the wealth of the community in which the child lives, the only way I know of ensuring that opportunity is by directing more money to the communities and children who need it more than others. But it has to be affirming the state's responsibility. Unfortunately, with regard to the amendment, there were some who wanted an amendment that would allow the state to abandon its responsibility for public education, and I wasn't willing to support that type of amendment.

**MS:** *You've had the most positive rating of any governor in the country. How does that make you feel and how do you think you achieved that?*

Well, I'm not really worried about that. What I do worry about is making sure I'm accessible to the people of New Hampshire. And like I did at Knoll, I'd get up every morning believing that I have to go out and earn the trust of the people, every morning. I had to do that at Knoll with regard to a company that was losing that kind of money with the employees, and I do that in New Hampshire. As I said, I'm out all the time, and I try to help people, to the extent that I can. And I love New Hampshire, and love the people of New Hampshire. And I



Took over as president and CEO of Knoll, Inc., a national furniture manufacturer, in **1994**. He served in that post until 2001.





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## GOODBYE, GOVERNOR



Gov. Lynch at a MooreMart event. Courtesy photo.

think people realize that I do have a deep, deep affection for this state.

**JM: What kind of a toll does [being governor for eight years] take on your family?**

My family has been great, absolutely fantastic. My wife has been a real partner to me in all of this. When we decided to run back in 2004, we were in 14 parades together, along with members of my family. I can't say enough for how supportive they all have been. And I think it's been a very rewarding experience for them as well, because they've got to meet people from all over New Hampshire in ways that they otherwise wouldn't have been able to do so. My wife has been involved in a myriad of projects of her own and has loved doing it. So I think overall it has been a very positive experience for the family.

**MS: Do you have any plans for vacations now?**

[laughing] My wife and I will probably

go away. For the most part, I need to stay busy and I need to stay active, I need to stay engaged. So I'll probably take a few days and kind of think about it, but then I'll get right back working hard.

**JM: Well, what won't you miss about the job?**

Part of the job that I did not like was among some people there is a real display of partisanship. Whether it's Democrats or Republicans, there are some partisans who don't want to work with the other side. And to me, that's the wrong way of governing. I think you need to reach out to the other side and work with the other side. There are some who look to whether you have a D or an R on your forehead. If you have a different letter than they have, then they're not going to work with him. And I've never cared what people wear on their foreheads. I care about what's in their hearts and whether they want to work with me to make New Hampshire a better state.

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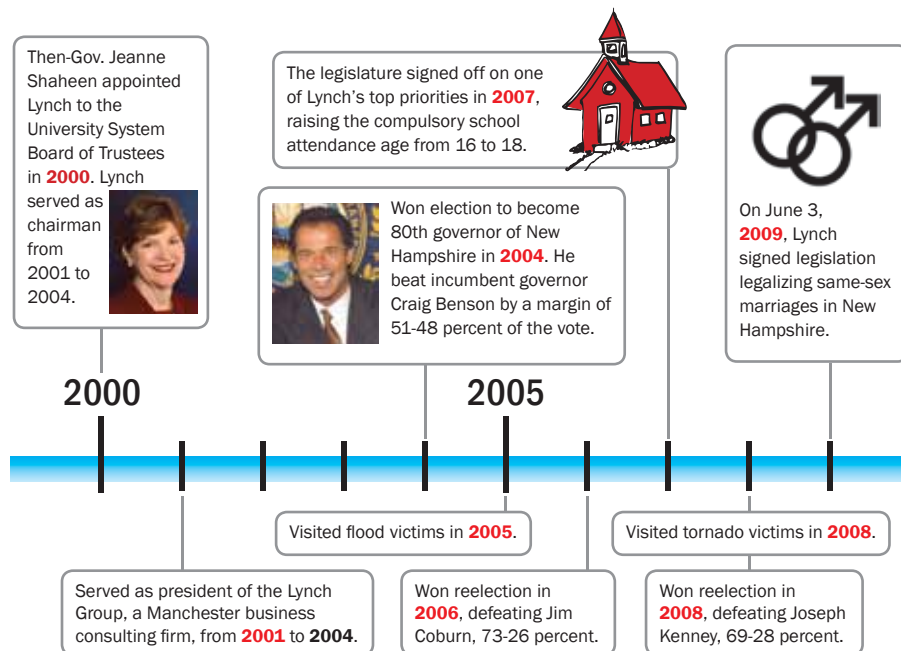
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**JM:** *What are the issues you see looking forward?*

The big issue is always, in the first year of the legislative session, the budget. The budget is always the single biggest issue. You have to work hard, you have to make compromises, build a consensus in terms of making a balanced budget and also meeting the needs of the people of New Hampshire.

**MS:** *What are you doing to transition out of office? Are you meeting with Maggie?*

Yes, I've met with Maggie. I've made sure and made clear to my department heads that I want them to work with Maggie and give Maggie whatever information she needs, whether it's of a budgetary nature or non-budgetary nature. I'd really like to see Maggie, on day one, be as up to speed as possible in terms of the requirements of the job are.

**JM:** *What kind of a governor do you expect her to be?*

I think she's going to be very pragmatic. I think she's also going to be able to put party politics to one side and work with everybody to solve problems. I think that's the way she was in the Senate. She's very smart. And I think her ability to work with everybody is something that will stand her in good stead as governor of the state of New Hampshire.

**JM:** *What are ... some things you see New Hampshire having to deal with going forward?*

I think there are a number of areas. We talked about infrastructure. I think there needs to be a serious discussion about how the state is going to provide more funding for public higher education. That would be a discussion, not only with the legislature, but also with the representatives from public higher education, meaning the university system, the community college system. ... The whole issue of corrections, how we manage corrections going forward. At some point we're going to need a new men's prison in Concord. We need a new women's

prison in Goffstown. The capital costs for both of those will be hundreds of millions of dollars, so there has to be a model that would help figure out how we get new prisons. And it's important, not only for the prison itself, but it's important as we work hard to lower the recidivism rate in New Hampshire. ... Obviously, there's been talk of whether to go forward with expanded gambling. I'm opposed to that for a myriad of reasons. There are many in the legislature, and I think Gov.-elect Hassan supports one facility, but they're going to have to figure all that out.

**JM:** *What types of further steps need to be taken to continue to improve the [economic] situation here?*

We've been able to entice a number of large companies to come to New Hampshire. Albany International is a good example. They're an \$800 million company. They could have located anywhere in the country and they decided to locate in Rochester. They have plants all over the world and I believe over time that will create in excess of over 1,000 jobs. Already, there's talk of some of their suppliers moving to Rochester. Another company that we've been able to work with to get to move to New Hampshire is Aspen Technology. They're about a \$300 million company and they're moving a significant part of their research and development to Nashua, creating upwards of 150 jobs. We've done a lot of work obviously to get the paper mill reopened up in Gorham, the biomass plant in Berlin. Those two initiatives will create hundreds of jobs. Already there have been over 200 people rehired at the paper mill in Gorham. So I think it's continuing to reach out to businesses, talking to businesses, getting them to think about locating here in New Hampshire. But I think to do that, we need to make sure the workers are here. ... Manufacturing companies continue to tell me that they need graduates with those skills, those disciplines, science, technology, engineering and math.

**JM:** *What things are you expecting to be working on as you close out the term?*

[laughing] Taking the pictures of my family out of the office. I have to do that. ... My schedule is actually almost completely booked between now and Jan. 3 with a myriad of meetings both inside and outside the office.

**JM:** *Is there a message you'd leave the people of New Hampshire with?*

The message I'd leave for people of New Hampshire is, I really love New Hampshire. I love the people of New Hampshire. I have loved being governor. And I appreciate the trust that they've placed in me.



Won more narrowly in his final and historic reelection bid in 2010, defeating John Stephen 52-45 percent. He was one of the few Democrats to win in 2010.

2010

On Sept. 15, 2011, Lynch announced he would not seek a fifth term.



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# THIS WEEK

## EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 13 - 19, 2012, AND BEYOND

### Sunday, Dec. 16

Enjoy Christmas carols in Stark Park (River Road, Manchester), from 4 to 5 p.m. Visit the park and listen to carols sung by a local community chorus group. Admission is free. Visit [www.friendsofstarkpark.org](http://www.friendsofstarkpark.org).



### Thursday, Dec. 13

Learn about life in Paris at Hooksett Library (31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett) at 6:30 p.m. Visit with Henry Smith, a professor interested in the lives of the French. Admission is free. Visit [hooksetlibrary.org](http://hooksetlibrary.org).



### Thursday, Dec. 13

Have a Hobbit party at the Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford), 3 to 4 p.m. Enjoy a traditional hobbit breakfast, learn how to write your name in Elvish and try out some Hobbit games. For grades 6-12. Registration is requested. Call 673-2408 or visit [wadleighlibrary.org](http://wadleighlibrary.org).



### Saturday, Dec. 15

Watch one movie or many at the Christmas Movie Marathon at Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit the library for family holiday movies throughout the day. Call 886-6030.



### Wednesday, Dec. 19

A skywatch at Amherst Town Library (14 Main St., Amherst) at 6:30 p.m. will focus on the first quarter moon, and New Hampshire Astronomical Society members will bring telescopes. An "introduction to astronomy" talk will be held before the skywatch. Admission is free and registration is available by calling 673-2288, emailing [library@amherst.lib.nh.us](mailto:library@amherst.lib.nh.us) or visiting [www.amherst.lib.nh.us](http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us).

### Free: sing carols

The Trillium holiday singalong will be preceded by a selection of a cappella offerings on Thursday, Dec. 13, at Concord Community Music School Recital Hall, 23 Wall St., Concord, 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. Call 228-1196 or visit [ccmusicschool.org](http://ccmusicschool.org).

### Cheap: bowl for a cause

The Holiday Cosmic Bowlathon at Strikers East (4 Essex Drive, Raymond) is Tuesday, Dec. 18, 7 to 10 p.m. Admission is \$25 and benefits the High Hopes Foundation. Call High Hopes at 429-1010 or Strikers East at 895-9501.

### Splurge: dance for a cause

Mix and mingle while you enjoy some food, drinks, music, and dancing at the Yuletide Gala at Grappone Conference Center (70 Constitution Ave., Concord) Sat., Dec. 15, 7-11 p.m. The event features a live and silent auction and music from Naz.



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# The gift of art

This year, give something unique, personal and long-lasting

By Kelly Sennott  
ksennott@hippopress.com

Looking for a present that's a little more unique than a gift card? You can't go wrong with the gift of art.

Craft fairs, markets, and art exhibits are everywhere this time of year, said Katy Solsky, founder and organizer of award-winning Concord Arts Market.

Manchester's Holiday Market, for example, will be held again on Saturday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and there are plenty of local craft stores like Wonder-Made (19 Warren St., Concord, wondermadenh.com) and Concord Handmade, a pop-up holiday shop in downtown Concord (67 S. Main St., Concord, concordhandmade@gmail.com).

"One thing that's nice is that you're supporting local people. ... There are various studies that show when you spend money locally, it stays in your economy longer, and I think that there's a general interest in supporting your local economy," Solsky said.

But then there's the big question: What should you get? After surveying a number of local art and craft galleries, it seems that functional art has resonated with buyers so far this shopping season.

Jaye Goodwin at Art 3 Gallery (44 W. Brook St., Manchester, 668-6650) has found that many of its customers are interested in three-dimensional artwork. Whether it's tiny treasures or tiny paintings or prints, Art 3 Gallery has a large inventory of all sorts

of art at all sorts of price points: sculptures, glass collectibles, paperweights, pottery, abstract or fine art.

The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen is another haven for functional art, and with its various retail galleries (including Concord, 36 N. Main St., 228-8171; Meredith, 279 DW Highway, 279-7920; and Nashua, 98 Main St., 595-8233), it's easy to stop in. Each shop is managed independently, but the caliber of craft is the same in each shop; the League of Craftsmen casts its seal of approval on each item sold at the retail galleries. Nancy Rowley, the retail manager in Meredith, said that there are more people who are seeking out handmade items than in past years.

"We're really seeing people come back to hand-crafted work, things that are made by the people. We can tell them [shoppers] their [crafter's] name, where they live. ... It's made in this country, and more importantly, most of it's made in New Hampshire," Rowley said in a phone interview.

Younger crowds, people in their 20s and 30s, have been visiting the gallery, Rowley said, to check out their high-end, hand-crafted jewelry and functional craft items, like pottery.

Mill Brook Gallery and Sculpture Garden (236 Hopkinton Road, Concord, themillbrook-gallery.com, 226-2046) still has a few sculptures left in its garden, but the big holiday exhibit is "Artful Giving," which features handmade, affordable gifts, starting at \$15 for a key chain, \$25 for a ceramic cup, and \$55 for a pair of handmade, sterling silver ear-



"100 Square Feet of Art" at Wild Salamander.



Vases by Megan Bogonovich at the Mill Brook Gallery.



Pearl and sterling bracelet by Christiane Hilbrig-Touraney at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Meredith gallery.

rings. There are also paintings, mobiles, sculptures, vases and tea pots.

The Whitty Gallery at Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center (30 Ash St., Hollis, info@wildsalamander.com, 465-WILD) offers 100 square art pieces in "100 Square Feet of Art," most of which are 12 x 12 inches and between \$10 and \$100. Watercolor, oil, acrylic, mixed media, pen and ink, sand paintings, collage art, oil paintings, and pen and ink work make up this square (but not "square") exhibit. Artists and buyers were diverse, ranging from professionals to 12-year-olds. You can't wear this art or eat soup out of it, but KC Morgan, one of the owners of Wild Salamander, said that what's great about

these pieces is their size: they fit anywhere.

Morgan suggests that in choosing art, you should think about a person's interests, tastes, background.

"I think that people are really looking for something that connects with them. One couple, for instance, bought a piece depicting the field across from their house. Another woman from Canada bought a painting of a sunflower because she grew sunflowers," Morgan said.

"Art is such a physical thing that takes hours, days ... people work really hard, and it's nice to appreciate them," gallery owner Pamela Tarbell said. 🍀

## More gift ideas

- For the theater-goers, you can purchase a holiday gift through the **Palace Theatre**. There are "buy one get one free" Palace Theatre memberships, gift certificates, or, you could give a theatrical memory by purchasing a ticket to see a Broadway show in New York City. The Palace Theatre hosts a two-day trip with a stay at Paramount Hotel Times Square, dinner, and tickets to *Newsies*. The trip departure is on Saturday, Jan. 12, at 8 a.m. from the Palace, and return is on Monday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. (\$525 per person).
- You can also get gift certificates for the **Currier Museum of Art** (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144) or Sharon Arts Center (457 Route 12S, Sharon, 924-7256) to help with your favorite young artists' tuition costs. Or you might find something at the Currier Museum shop, which currently features art tiles, beaded pearl jewelry, eco-friendly lunar calendars, metal jewelry and song bird pottery.
- Give the gift of music by buying gift certificates to see **Symphony NH** shows (symphonynh.org) by calling 595-9156.
- **East Colony Fine Art** (55 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 621-7400) still has items up on display from its Holiday Open House, including some 6 x 6 paintings for \$75. In addition, there are some stained glass, pottery, holiday pieces and handmade ornaments for sale, which are on

## 26 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

### THEATER LISTINGS

- **The Acting Loft**  
670 N. Commercial St., Manchester, in the Jefferson Mill Building. 666-5999, actingloft.org
- **Actorsingers**  
219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691, actorsingers.org

- **Adams Memorial Opera House**  
29 W. Broadway, Derry, 437-0505, derryarts.org
- **Amato Family Center for the Performing Arts at Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club**  
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002, ext. 2, svbgc.com
- **Andy's Summer Playhouse**  
Wilton, 654-2613,

## 30 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

- andysummerplayhouse.org
- **Anselmian Abbey Players**  
Dana Center, 641-7700
- **Bedford Off Broadway**  
Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford, 557-1805, bedfordoffbroadway.com
- **Bedford Town Hall**  
70 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford
- **Bedford Youth Performing Company**

- 155 Route 101, Bedford, www.bypc.org, 472-3894.
- **Belle Voci**  
bellevoci.org, 848-7986
- **Capitol Center for the Arts**  
44 Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
- **Concord Choral**  
224-0770, concordchorale.org

## 31 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

- **Concord City Auditorium**  
2 Prince St., Concord, 228-2793, www.theaudi.org
- **Concord Community Players**  
224-4905, communityplayersofconcord.org
- **The Dana Center**  
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu

- **The Hampstead Theatre**  
1355 Suncook Valley Hwy., Ctr. Barnstead, 1-800-619-5302, www.hampsteadstage.org
- **The Majestic Theatre**  
Manchester, 669-7469, www.majestictheatre.net
- **Manchester Community Music School**  
2291 Elm St., 644-4548, mcmusicschool.org



## ART LOCAL COLOR

• **Contemporary art for contemporary butts:** Two new pieces have been added to the Currier Museum of Art's collection of studio furniture. One is a signature piece envisioning the classic rocking chair from Sam Maloof, called "Rocker #20." The other is a carved seating work in wood, "Distant Thunder," by Wendell Castle. The pair are two of America's most important studio furniture makers, and are valuable additions to the Currier's collection. "As leaders of the studio furniture movement, Maloof and Castle are two of America's most important studio furniture makers. Through their personal design and commitment to exceptional craftsmanship, their work continues to inspire the artists of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters, as well as pretty much anyone who sees it," said P. Andrew Spahr, director of the collections and exhibitions at the Currier, in a press release.



A new piece at the Currier Museum of Art. Courtesy photo.

• **\$100,000 for Prescott Park:** Prescott Park Arts Festival recently received \$100,000 from Bauer Performance Sports, which will be used to rebuild the festival pavilion building that houses concessions and restrooms. This will help move the project forward for better food and bathrooms and a better experience during spring, summer and fall events at Prescott Park.

• **LCHIP grant awarded to Currier:** The Currier Museum of Art is one of 18 projects that will benefit from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. The \$5,000 grant will go toward preservation enhancements to the museum's Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Zimmerman house, according to the press release, which will include stabilizing the temperature and humidity inside the Zimmerman House by installing air condi-

tioning, replacing the non-functioning air handler with an efficient model, and installing an air compressor.

• **New Hampshire's ornament represents:** Sculptor Emile Birch and some sixth- and seventh-grade students from Canaan have been hard at work, creating winter, New Hampshire-esque ornaments in a tiny holiday ornament bulbs. Last week their work represented the Granite State on the National Tree and New Hampshire tree in the National Tree Lighting ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 6. Birch and the students worked with art teacher Cynthia Cummings on the project over the course of several weeks this fall.

"I've worked with school settings throughout my career, collaborating with students on murals, sculptures and kinetic works ... This project was extra special for all of us, knowing that the ornaments will represent New Hampshire at such an important venue," he said in the release.

New Hampshire's Franklin Pierce, the 14th president of the United States, was actually the first president to place a Christmas tree in the White House in 1856, but the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony has been a tradition since 1923.

— Kelly Sennott

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• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** presented by The Players' Ring, Dec. 14 through Dec. 23, on Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Monday through Thursday at 7 p.m., at Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, 436-8123. Tickets \$15 general, \$12 for students, seniors.  
• **HALF 'N HALF 'N HALF** comedy from Merrimack Repertory Theatre, at Nancy Donahue Theatre (50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass., 978-654-4678, mrt.org) Nov. 29-Dec. 23. Shows are on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Visit mrt.org for showtimes. Tickets start at \$20.  
• **LAS POSADAS** by Alchemists' Workshop (alchemistsworkshop.org) on Sat., Dec. 15, at 4 p.m., at Henniker Congregational Church in Henniker (43 Maple St., Henniker); on Sat., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., at Hillsboro United Methodist Church, Hillsborough (16 Henniker St.); and on Sat., Dec. 22,

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## THEATER

# Twelve Days on stage

Dancing, drumming and more at holiday show

By Kelly Sennott  
[ksennott@hippopress.com](mailto:ksennott@hippopress.com)

For a little bit of everything this holiday season, see *The Twelve Days of Christmas*; in just an hour and a half, you get a ballet; a holiday and choral concert; a gymnastics performance; an aerial dancing show; an African drumming concert; and, really, an art show, showcasing an 18-foot work of pear-tree art.

In its second run, Brandi Nylen has been laboring to make this year's take at the Capitol Center for the Arts even bigger than last year's, with about 100 performers in the gigantic community event.

After having worked for six years as director for the St. Paul's *Nutcracker* production, which used to show at the Capitol Center, this show offered a way to flex her creative muscles.

"I love *The Nutcracker*, but I wanted to spread my wings," she said.

So she did. And this is what you'll find.

The show starts with music. The Cabbageheads (a new addition to this year's show) will start with "Carol of the Bells." Then comes the Concord Community Music School choir, which will offer some holiday favorites before they sing one of the longest songs in holiday history, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Then come the dancers: 50 young performers from the Eastern Ballet Institute, ages 6 to 18, will spin, leap and twirl on stage. They'll later be joined by five "golden ring" tumblers, 12 African drummers and a couple of "turtle dove" aerial dancers, all of whom will perform around an 18-foot pear tree made of wood and felt, adorned with Christmas lights and paper mache pears.

The light-up tree, created by Reed's husband, Allen, and Dehbra Gagnon (owner of Show Hoppers Dance Boutique in Concord), took about three and a half months to create. Everything from the centerpiece tree to the sparkling costumes was created by Gagnon and Brandi Reed.

Nylen, who owns Eastern Ballet Institute in Concord, loves the opportunity it gives her dancers to perform with other types of artists.

"How often do dancers get to work with live musicians?" she asked.

Ava Rose is one dancer who will be returning for this year's holiday event. She played the partridge in a pear tree last year, and this year, she'll dance as a french hen, a lord a' leaping, and a drummer drumming. She said it's a challenge to perform to live music, because there is a bit of variation in how the musicians play and what they prac-



Six geese in last year's rendition of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* at the Capitol Center for the Arts. Courtesy photo.

## The Twelve Days of Christmas

When: Saturday, Dec. 15, at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Where: Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord).

Admission: \$16.50 for adults, \$12.50 for students/seniors

tice to, but that doesn't take away from the experience.

"It was very fun to be a part of, and interesting to see it all come together ... I really liked the variety of the dances and the way they tell the story," Rose said.

It'll certainly be a different kind of holiday show than what you might be used to, said Owen DeFrancesco, marketing manager at the Capitol Center for the Arts.

"You'll see a few *Nutcrackers*, a few *Christmas Carols*, but this is a different opportunity to see something that you haven't been going to every year," DeFrancesco said.

But what DeFrancesco enjoys most is the community aspect. Nine gymnasts from Flipz gymnastics, for instance, will be hand-standing, cartwheeling and leaping across the stage, twirling in golden leotards and with golden hula hoops. The gymnasts, who range in age from 6 to 9, don't often get to perform in events like these, said Robyn Grant, routine organizer for the "five golden ring" gymnasts.

"The goal is for these younger performers to get the chance to come up and dance, but for the community to come and see this performance," said DeFrancesco. It's also a show that kids will like too, he said.

The show ends with a sing-along and, said Reed, a special surprise. 🐼

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Las Posadas

• **Winnie the Pooh Tail:** No, it's not a typo. It's Christmas at the 100 Acre Wood, and while almost everyone is buzzing with energy and Christmas cheer, of course, Eeyore can't find his tail. Pooh, Piglet, Tiger, Rabbit, Owl, Kanga and Roo have to help him find it before Christmas at this Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St., Portsmouth) show. *A Winnie the Pooh Christmas* tickets are \$6 to \$10. Showtimes are Saturday, Dec. 15, Sunday, Dec. 16, Saturday, Dec. 22, and Sunday, Dec. 23, at 11:30 a.m. Visit [seacoastrep.org](http://seacoastrep.org) or call 433-4472.

• **See a show, support a cause:** *Las Posadas*, an operetta commissioned by Henniker's Alchemists' Workshop, shows in Henniker, Hillsborough and Concord over the next few weeks. The tour started last, weekend and throughout the first five shows in Wilmot, Madbury, Concord and Bedford, over \$2,000 was raised in free will offerings for Hurricane Sandy Relief, local community needs and mission work. New Hampshire artists William Ogmundson and Tom Dunn adapted Tomie dePaola's *The Night of Las Posadas* into a 45-minute

musical piece, in which four professional singers will present the work. Showtimes are Saturday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m., at the Henniker Congregational Church (43 Maple St., Henniker); Saturday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., at the Hillsboro United Methodist Church, (16 Henniker St., Hillsborough) and Saturday, Dec. 22, at noon and 2 p.m., at Red River Theatres, Concord (11 S. Main St.).

• **New musical showcase event planned for capital area:** The Concord Community Concert Association announced that it's adding a new program to its mix: Merrimack Music. The Merrimack Music series will showcase New Hampshire's musical artists at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord) for four Sundays in March (March 3, March 10, March 17 and March 24), from 3 to 5 p.m. It'll be a salon setting with an audience of up to 100, according to the press release. Right now, the Concord Community Concert Association is looking for artists to perform. Artists, whether they be professional, recreational or student, are encouraged to submit proposals to be part of the series; email the name of the group/musician, the description of music, the availability on listed dates and work samples (mp3, YouTube, CD website link) to CCA Director Eric Reingold, [ccanhmusic@gmail.com](mailto:ccanhmusic@gmail.com) or Endicott Furniture, 12 S. Main St., Concord. "We're hoping for a large response so we can develop a schedule which benefits the musicians and provides four exciting performances," Reingold said in the release. — *Kelly Sennott*

noon to 2 p.m., at Red River Theatres in Concord (11 S. Main St.).

• **WINNIE THE POOH: A CHRISTMAS TAIL** on Sat., Dec. 15, at 11:30 a.m.; Sun., Dec. 16, at 11:30 a.m.; Sat., Dec. 22, at 11:30 a.m.; and Sun., Dec. 23, at 11:30 a.m., at Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-4472. Tickets are \$6-\$10.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588) Nov. 30-Dec. 23. Call for showtimes. Tickets are \$15-\$45, [palacetheatre.org](http://palacetheatre.org).

• **AN UNEXPECTED GIFT** Christmas play on Sat., Dec. 15, at 2 and 6 p.m., at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased at [lifelinedrama.com](http://lifelinedrama.com).

• **DICKENS' OF A CHRISTMAS** at the Old Salt Restaurant, Lafayette Road, Hampton, on Thurs., Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. Dinner and show. Tickets are \$39.99 per person. Reserve by calling the Old Salt Restaurant, 926-0330.

• **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE AND A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES** with Pontine Theatre on Fri., Dec. 14, at 8 p.m.; Sat.,

Dec. 15, at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 16, at 2 p.m., at West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, 436-6660. Tickets are \$24. Visit [pontine.org](http://pontine.org).

• **THE NUTCRACKER** at the Concord Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord) on Fri., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., featuring the New Hampshire School of Ballet, directed by Jennifer Reinert. Tickets are \$15 at Gibson's Bookstore and at the door; Visit [nhschoolofballet.com](http://nhschoolofballet.com) or call 668-5330.

• **THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS** features more than 100 young performers from all over New Hampshire on Sat., Dec. 15, at 1 and 4 p.m., at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord, [ccanh.com](http://ccanh.com), 225-1111). The holiday show features performers from Eastern Ballet Institute and live music by the Concord Community Music School's Purple Finches Children's Chorus and the Cabageheads. Tickets are \$12.50 for students and seniors, \$16.50 for adults.

• **ONE QUIET NIGHT** is a Christmas musical presented at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 14 Mammoth Road, Hooksett, on Sun., Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. Admis-

sion free. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres served following program. Call 668-6473 or visit [emmanuelbaptistchurch.com](http://emmanuelbaptistchurch.com).

• **AN 1836 PORTSMOUTH NUTCRACKER** at The Music Hall (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, [themusichall.org](http://themusichall.org)). Full-length performances (\$30.50-\$41.50) are on Fri., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 15, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 16, at 2:30 p.m. Nutcracker in a Nutshell (\$25.50-\$30.50) performances are on Sat., Dec. 15, at 10 a.m. and Sun., Dec. 16, at 11:30 a.m. Call 433-3100.

• **THE RAGPICKER'S DREAM** at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 433-3100, on Sun., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., and Mon., Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$18. Visit [themusichall.org](http://themusichall.org).

• **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE** at Pontine West End Studio (959 Islington St., Portsmouth, [pontine.org](http://pontine.org), 436-6660) on Fri., Dec. 14, at 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 15, at 4 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$24.

• **HOLIDAY MAGIC** at the Claremont Opera House (58 Opera House Square, Claremont) on Sun., Dec. 16, at 1 p.m., wel-

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comes back NH School of Ballet and cast of 50 as they present The Nutcracker Suite. Call 542-4433 or visit [claremontoperahouse.org](http://claremontoperahouse.org) for ticket information.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** by Ballet Misha on Sat., Dec. 15, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sun., Dec. 16, at 1 p.m., at the Dana Center at Saint Anselm's College (100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Tickets \$18 in advance at 84 Myrtle St., Manchester, or at [showclix.com/search/misha](http://showclix.com/search/misha). Tickets \$20 at the door on the day of performance.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** by Sole City Dance, on Fri., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., and Sat., Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Rochester Opera House (31 Wakefield St., Rochester). Tickets \$24 for adults, \$20 for children and seniors. Call 335-1992 or visit [rochesteroperahouse.com](http://rochesteroperahouse.com).

• **THE NUTCRACKER** at Keefe Auditorium (Elm St., Nashua) by the Northern Ballet Theatre of Nashua on Sat., Dec. 15, at 2 p.m., and Sun., Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets \$18-\$22; call 889-8408 or visit [nbtbc.com](http://nbtbc.com).

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** at the Rochester Opera House (31 Wakefield St., Rochester) on Thurs, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 22, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 23, at 2 p.m. Reserve tickets at [rochesteroperahouse.org](http://rochesteroperahouse.org) or call 355-1992. Tickets \$14-\$16.

• **AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS** by Just Love to Sing on Fri., Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m., at the Franklin Opera House, 316 Central St., Franklin. Tickets are \$15; call 934-1901 or visit [justlovetosing.com](http://justlovetosing.com).

• **THE NUTCRACKER** on Fri., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m., celebrating the 30th annual performance of *The Nutcracker*, at the Concord Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord) directed by Lisa Drouin Goff. Tickets are \$15 at the UPS Store, 75 S. Main St., Concord, and at the door; Call 485-8710.

• **AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS** on Sat., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m., with Christopher Martinez singing the role of Amahl and Jane Cormier as Mother in this Giancarlo Menotti operatic story. This is a free event; call 781-5695 or visit [justlovetosing.com](http://justlovetosing.com).

• **WEST COAST FUN** at Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, on Wed., Dec. 26, at 2 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 27, at 2 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 28, at 2 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 29, at 2 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 30, at 2 p.m. Tickets \$15. Visit [pontine.org](http://pontine.org).

• **WEST FEST** on Wed., Dec. 26, through Sun., Dec. 30, at Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, at 2 p.m. each day. Family-oriented festival. Tickets \$15 and can be purchased at [pontine.org](http://pontine.org). Call 436-6660.

## CAROLING AND CONCERTS



When's the last time you heard the Manchester Choral Society sing? This holiday season is your chance; they'll be caroling at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester) on Saturday, Dec. 15, at noon and at the NH For the Holidays Expo at the Radisson (500 Elm St., Manchester) at 2 p.m. Later that night, at 7 p.m., they'll sing at their annual holiday concert "The Peacemakers," and they'll perform again on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m., at St. Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester. "The Peacemakers," written by Karl Jenkins, incorporates texts from some of the world's most prolific figures, with messages of peace from Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Anne Frank and the Dalai Lama. Tickets for "The Peacemakers" are \$25. Call 472-6627 or visit [mcsmh.org](http://mcsmh.org).

• **DORKS IN DUNGEONS PLAYING DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS LIVE** will return to the Players' Ring once a month for the rest of the main stage season at the Players' Ring (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, [playersring.org](http://playersring.org), 436-8123). Sun., Dec. 30, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$12.

### Auditions/open calls

• **AUDITIONS** for Seussical Jr. with Nashua Actorsingers on Sun., Dec. 16, 1-4 p.m., at Actorsingers Hall (219 Lake St., Nashua, 320-1870). Come with sheet music to sing 16 bars in the show. Doors open at noon to learn the dance audition.

• **AUDITIONS** for theatre KAPOW's spring productions, The Illusion and Buried Child are on Mon., Dec. 17, and Tues., Dec. 18, at Stockbridge Theatre (5 Pinkerton St., Derry). Schedule audition at [tkapow.com/training.html](http://tkapow.com/training.html).

• **STUDENT ONE-ACT PLAY-WRITING WORKSHOP** auditions on Wed., Dec. 19, 6:30-9:30 p.m., for ages 11-18, at the Amato Theater, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Performances are Feb. 15 and Feb. 16. Email Toby-Tarnow@yahoo.com or call 465-3456.

• **CALL FOR SINGERS** for Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus, which is seeking female singers to join a cappella barbershop singing. Visit a Thursday rehearsal 6:45-9:15 p.m. at Marion Gerrish Commu-

nity Center (35 W. Broadway, Derry), call 800-696-7351 or visit [nmchorus.org](http://nmchorus.org).

### Workshops/other

• **ACTORSINGERS DECEMBER SOCIAL EVENT** on Fri., Dec. 14, at 8 p.m., at Actorsingers Hall (219 Lake St., Nashua, 320-1870). BINGO, party games, cake, etc., free for members, \$5 for non-members. Info night on Seussical Jr. 7-8 p.m.

## ART LISTINGS

### Art events

• **HOLIDAY BIZARRE** alternative craft fair on Sat., Dec. 15, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the first floor lobby of the Newmarket Mills. Art, craft, vintage, vinyl clothing, accessories, toys, books comics of alternative nature. Music by artists Stu Dias, Chelsea Paolini, Cody Pope, the Methans, Nate Laban and more.

• **HOLLIS ARTS SOCIETY** presents Mary Graham at next meeting on Wed., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., at Lawrence Barn, 28 Depot Road, Hollis. All invited to attend.

• **HOLIDAY MAKE AND TAKE** at the Wild Salamander Arts Center (30 Ash St., Hollis, 465-WILD, [wildsalamander.com](http://wildsalamander.com)), on Sat., Dec. 15, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., for kids ages 5 and older, \$30 per child. Gift cards, wrapping paper presents, jewelry, painting, polymer, and more.



# HOLIDAY MARKET



Soak in the holidays at the Manchester Downtown Holiday Market, which you can catch three more times: Thursday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 15, noon to 2 p.m.; and Thursday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Here you'll find jewelry made with semi-precious stones, embroidered New Hampshire items, hand-painted glassware, candle holders made out of tree trunks and limbs, photography, artwork, homemade gourmet dog treats and more. Stop by Dec. 15 and you'll get to hear the Dragon Fiddler, playing a variety of traditional Christmas carols, or visit on Dec. 20 and you'll hear the Liberty Harbor Academy student carolers. Dec. 20 is also Ugly Sweater Day in Manchester, so be sure to look your holiday worst.

• **HOLIDAY MARKET** InTown Manchester (Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St., Manchester) on Thursdays, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sat., Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 40 local vendors will sell their artisan goods all month long.

## Exhibit openings

• **GRETCHEN ANDRUS** will show "Aesthetic Darwinism: The Art Show" on Sun., Dec. 23, 2-4 p.m., at 55 S. Commercial St., Suite 314.

## Children's art classes/events

• **PAINTED ORNAMENTS** for ages 8 and older at Wild Salamander Arts Center (30 Ash St., Hollis, 465-WILD, wildsalamander.com) on Fri., Dec. 14, 3:30-5 p.m., \$20.  
• **HOLIDAY GINGERBREAD TRAIN WORKSHOP** on Tues., Dec. 18, 6-8 p.m., at Wild Salamander Arts Center (30 Ash St., Hollis, 465-WILD, wildsalamander.com), \$20. Make edible, holiday centerpiece. Call 465-9453.  
• **CURRIER MUSEUM NOON YEAR'S EVE** event lets kids celebrate the clock striking 12 at an event at the Currier Museum (150 Ash St., Manchester, currier.org, 669-6144, ex. 108) on Mon., Dec. 31, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hats, snowflake scavenger hunt, prizes, s'mores, hot cocoa, popcorn and kids lunch specials.

## CLASSICAL LISTINGS

### Concerts

• **MANCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY** will carol at the Currier (150 Ash St., Manchester) at St. Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester, on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., and Sunday,

Dec. 16, at 3 p.m., in "Christmas Tapestry: The PeaceMakers." Tickets are \$25.

• **HOLIDAY MUSIC WITH HARPIS LISA WASHINGTON CALVO** on Thurs., Dec. 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550).

• **TRILLIUM** holiday sing along preceded by a selection of a capella offerings on Thurs., Dec. 13, at at Concord Community Music School Recital Hall, 23 Wall St., Concord, 12:10-12:50 p.m. Free. Call 228-1196 or visit ccmusicschool.org.

• **ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS** with St. Joseph Cathedral Chamber Singers at St. Joseph Cathedral (145 Lowell St., Manchester) on Fri., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. Free will offering. Call 622-6404 or email EBermani@stjosephcathedralnh.org.

• **ED GERHARD** presents annual Christmas guitar concert on Fri., Dec. 14, and Sat., Dec. 15, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 advanced, \$28 at the door. Call 664-7200 or visit virturerecords.com.

• **CHRISTMAS TAPESTRY** concert with performances by Manchester Choral Society and Nashua High School South and 2G MCS youth chorus on Sat., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., and Sun., Dec. 16, at 3 p.m., at St. Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester. Tickets \$20. Visit mcsnh.org or call 472-6627.

• **AIDA** on Sat., Dec. 15, at 1 p.m., at Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough, peterboroughplayers.org, 924-7585. Tickets \$25 for adults, \$20 for students.

• **TUCKERMANS AT 9 AND THE SUGARBEATS** team up

on Sat., Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m., at Verdant Pastures Auditorium (38 Ladds' Lane, Epping). Proceeds go to Exeter St. Vincent de Paul Community Assistance Center. Tickets are \$20. Call 772-9922 or visit tuckermansat9.com.

• **BROOKSIDE CHRISTMAS CONCERT** on Sat., Dec. 15, at 3 p.m., at Brookside Congregational Church, 2013 Elm St., Manchester, brooksidecc.org, 669-2807. Free. Bring non perishables, to be delivered to New Horizons.

• **WOMEN SINGING OUT! GALA TABLESIDE CONCERT** on Sat., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., at 7 Front St., Exeter. Visit womensingingout.org. Suggested \$25 donation, includes desserts and beverages.

• **SYMPHONY NH HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT** is on Sat., Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m., at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium (117 Elm St., Nashua). From "Sleigh Ride" to "White Christmas," the new auditorium allows you to enjoy the music of the holidays better than ever. Tickets are \$12-\$48. Visit symphonynh.org.

• **CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY** with the RMS Five at the Community Congregational Church, 2 Post Road, Greenland, on Sun., Dec. 16, at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Children under 12 admitted free.

• **COMMUNITY SINGERS HOLIDAY CONCERT** on Sun., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., at St. George's Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 650 Hanover St., Manchester. Free.

• **HOLIDAY CONCERT** at the Nashua Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610) on Sun., Dec. 16, at 2 p.m., featuring flutist Aubrie Dionne and harpist Piper Runnion-Bareford. This free concert is open to the public. Visit nashualibrary.org/directions.htm or call 589-4610.

• **HOLIDAY MAGIC CONCERT** at the Nashua Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610) on Sun., Dec. 16, at 2 p.m., with flutist Aubrie Dionne and harpist Piper Runnion-Bareford. Free. Visit nashualibrary.org.

• **PORTSMOUTH HOLIDAY POPS** on Wed., Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m., with the Sandpipers Seacoast Children's Choir, at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets are \$20. Visit portsmouthsymphony.org.

• **MESSIAH** with St. Joseph Cathedral Parish Choir and Diocesan Festival Chorus on Fri., Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Joseph Cathedral Parish, at 145 Lowell St., Manchester. Suggested \$15 donation. Call 622-6404, ext. 31.

• **"THE FIRST GIFT OF CHRISTMAS" HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT** Sun., Dec. 23, at 6:30 p.m., at Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St. Tickets \$12 (\$7 for children younger than 12). Call 335-1992.

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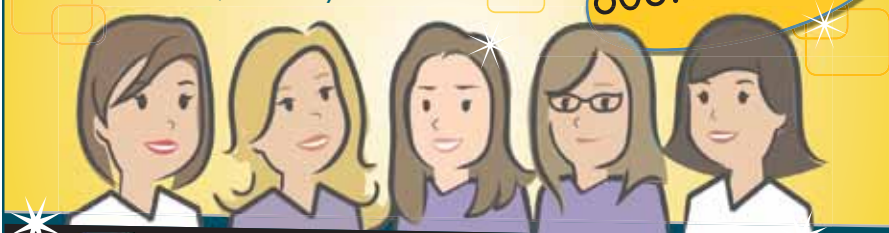
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**Get Listed**

From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to [listings@hippopress.com](mailto:listings@hippopress.com) at least three weeks before the event.

# INSIDE/OUTSIDE School's out

## Vacation camps provide winter break fun

By Cory Francer  
[cfrancer@hippopress.com](mailto:cfrancer@hippopress.com)

Santa will have come and gone and the gifts will have been unwrapped and played with. But with school not starting for another week, what's a kid to do to prevent the boredom from setting in? Local organizations are offering vacation camps and programs for kids.

The YMCA of Greater Manchester, with branches in Manchester, Goffstown and Londonderry, is offering camps on Wednesday, Dec. 26, Thursday, Dec. 27, and Friday, Dec. 28.

Michele Sheppard, the branch director at the Allard Center Branch in Goffstown, said that while each location will provide care each day from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., the activities will vary depending on the branch.

For kids with a creative flair, Beck's Arts Express is offering a three-day camp from Dec. 26 to Dec. 28 and will focus on a different artistic theme each day.

From 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 26, kids ages 9 to 14 can learn about and draw Japanese animation. The second and third day are for ages 7 to 12 with "Winter Wonderland" and "Crafty Kids" themes.

Play Ball in Salem and Nashua is offering four-day camps

from Wednesday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 28, and on Monday, Dec. 31, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Nashua Baseball Academy will offer a baseball camp on Thursday, Dec. 27, and Friday, Dec. 28. Three sessions will be offered: pitching, playing catcher and hitting. The camps are available for anyone ages 8-18.

USA Training Centers in Newington is offering a Christmas break baseball and softball camp Wednesday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 28, from 9 a.m. to noon, for ages 7 to 12. Registration required.

Crotched Mountain in Bennington is offering a ski race camp and a freestyle camp from Wednesday, Dec. 26 through Friday, Dec. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The camps are geared toward high school students.

Pats Peak in Henniker will be offering both a ski race camp for high school students Wednesday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 28, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A kids camp for ages 6 to 14 also runs Dec. 26 through Dec. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

McIntyre Ski Area is offering a five-day vacation camp beginning Wednesday, Dec. 26. The Little Macs program runs from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., and 2 to 3 p.m., for ages 4-6. The Mighty Macs program, for ages 6 to 16, runs from 9:30 to 11:30

a.m. Hampshire Hills Sports & Fitness Club in Milford is offering programs with activities like swimming, rock climbing and tennis on Monday, Dec. 24, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At the Concord Family YMCA, kids in grades K-6 can take part in the Kydscamp, Wednesday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 28, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with trips to Smitty's Cinema and Crazy Kids kids, plus sledding, swimming, rock climbing and archery.

The YMCA of Greater Nashua offers camp days Monday, Dec. 24, and Wednesday, Dec. 26, through Monday, Dec. 31.

The Children's Museum of New Hampshire in Dover is offering a LEGO camp Dec. 27 and Dec. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., ages 6 to 9.

The Seacoast Science Center is offering two three-day camps in Rye, Dec. 26 through Dec. 28 for ages 3½ to 5 and grades K-5.

The camps run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Do you know of a great vacation week camp? Send an email to [listings@hippopress.com](mailto:listings@hippopress.com). Check out our listings and spotlights for updates.* 🍄

### CHILDREN & TEENS Events

• **FUN WITH FLEECE** at Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center (30 Ash St., Hollis) Thurs., Dec. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. For ages 10 and up, learn to make hats, scarves and flowers from fleece. Admission is \$20. Call 465-9453 or visit [www.wildsalamander.com](http://www.wildsalamander.com).

• **HOBBIT PARTY** at the Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford), Thurs., Dec. 13, 3-4 p.m. Enjoy a traditional hobbit breakfast, learn how to write your name in Elvish and try out some hobbit games. For grades 6-12. Registration is requested. Call 673-2408 or visit [www.wadleighlibrary.org](http://www.wadleighlibrary.org).

• **ART AFTERNOON**

at Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford) Fri., Dec. 14, 3:30-4:30 p.m. For grades 2-5, study the styles of a famous painter and then make your own creation in that style. Call 673-2408.

• **PAINTED ORNAMENTS** at Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center (30 Ash St., Hollis) Fri., Dec. 14, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

For ages 8 and up, use paint to create holiday crafts. Admission is \$20 and parents can join for \$5. Call 465-9453 or visit [www.wildsalamander.com](http://www.wildsalamander.com).

• **CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON** at Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson) Sat., Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit the library for family holiday movies throughout

the day. Call 886-6030.

• **SANTA LIVE** at The Londonderry Access Center (281 Mammoth Road, Londonderry) Sat., Dec. 15, 1-3 p.m. Kids are welcome to visit the center and tell Santa what they want for Christmas live on CTV-20. Admission is free. Call 432-1147.

• **HOLIDAY CRAFT PARTY** at Wadleigh

Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford) Sat., Dec. 15, 11 a.m.-noon. All ages welcome and registration is not required. Visit the children's room for holiday themed crafts. Call 673-2408 or visit [www.wadleighlibrary.org](http://www.wadleighlibrary.org).

• **HOLIDAY MAKE AND TAKE** at Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center (30 Ash St., Hollis) Sat.,

### Vacation Camps

**YMCA of Greater Manchester**

**Where:** 30 Mechanic St., Manchester; 116 Goffstown Back Road, Goffstown; 206 Rockingham Road, Londonderry

**Cost:** Varies. Call Manchester at 623-3558, Goffstown at 497-4663 and Londonderry at 437-9622.

**Beck's Arts Express**

**Where:** 5 Pine St. Extension, Nashua

**Cost:** \$45 per day

**Children's Museum of New Hampshire**

**Where:** 6 Washington St., Dover.

**Cost:** \$130

**Seacoast Science Center**

**Where:** 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye

**Cost:** \$55 per day and \$165 for the week.

**Play Ball**

**Where:** 16 Industrial Way, Salem and 9 Congress St., Nashua

**Cost:** \$125; \$110 for members. Call Salem at 898-0332 and Nashua at 883-2323. Visit [goplayball.com](http://goplayball.com).

**Nashua Baseball Academy**

**Where:** 265 Proctor Hill Road, Hollis

**Cost:** \$40 for non-members and \$20 for members per session. Call 233-5587 or visit [nashuabaseballacademy.com](http://nashuabaseballacademy.com).

**USA Training Centers**

**Where:** 117 Gosling Road, Newington

**Cost:** \$95 for non-members and \$80 for members. Call 431-6700 or visit [usatrainingcenters.com](http://usatrainingcenters.com).

**Crotched Mountain**

**Where:** 615 Frankestown Road, Bennington

**Cost:** \$210 or \$120 for season pass holders. Call 588-3668; visit [crotchedmountain.com](http://crotchedmountain.com).

**Pats Peak**

**Where:** 686 Flanders Road, Henniker

**Cost:** \$210 for the ski race camp and ranges from \$240 to \$396 for kids camp. Call 428-3245 or visit [patspeak.com](http://patspeak.com).

**McIntyre Ski Area**

**Where:** 50 Chalet Way, Manchester

**Cost:** Varies. Call 622-6159 or visit [mcintyreskiarea.com](http://mcintyreskiarea.com)

**Hampshire Hills Sports and Fitness Club**

**Where:** 50 Emerson Road, Milford

**Cost:** \$50 per day for non-members and \$35 per day for members. Call 673-7123 or visit [hampshirehills.com](http://hampshirehills.com).

**Concord Family YMCA**

**Where:** 15 North State St., Concord

**Cost:** \$140 for non-members, \$130 for program members and \$120 for members.

**YMCA of Greater Nashua**

**Where:** 24 Stadium Drive, Nashua, 6 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack

**Cost:** \$271 for non-members for the week and \$63 for non-members for a single day.



# SWING YOUR PARTNER



Bring the whole family for a contra dance event at the East Concord Community Center (18 Eastman St., Concord). On Saturday, Dec. 15, from 8 to 11 p.m., the community center will host the annual Christmas Barn Dance. Musical accompaniment will be provided by Dudley Laufman & Two Fiddles. All skill levels, singers and families can join in. Admission is \$7 per person, \$5 for ages 15-25 and free for participants younger than 15. Call 225-4917.

Dec. 15, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For ages 5 and up, come for gift making and wrapping. A variety of crafts will be available and pizza will be served at 12:30 p.m. Admission is \$30 per child with a \$15 charge for additional siblings. Family maximum is \$60. Call 465-9453 or visit [www.wild-salamander.com](http://www.wild-salamander.com).

• **SANTA VISIT** at Van Otis Chocolates (341 Elm St., Manchester) Sun., Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Face painting and crafts will also be available. Call 627-1611 or visit [vanotischocolates.com](http://vanotischocolates.com).

• **GINGERBREAD HOUSE COOKIE DECORATION** at the Meredith Public Library (91 Main St., Meredith) Tues., Dec. 18, 4-5 p.m. Visit the library to decorate a holiday treat. Call 279-4303 or visit [www.meredith-library.org](http://www.meredith-library.org).

• **HOLIDAY GINGERBREAD TRAIN** at Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center (30 Ash St., Hollis) Tue., Dec. 18, 6-8 p.m. Use gingerbread to make a holiday craft. Admission is \$20. Call 465-9453 or visit [www.wildsalamander.com](http://www.wildsalamander.com).

• **WOODEN ORNAMENTS** at Hollis Social Library (2 Monument Sq., Hollis) Wed., Dec. 19, at 4 p.m. For children in kindergarten and up. All materials will be provided to create your own wooden ornament. Registration is required. Call 465-7721 or visit [www.hollislibrary.org](http://www.hollislibrary.org).

• **GLASS ORNAMENTS** at Hollis Social Library (2 Monument Sq., Hollis) Thurs., Dec. 20, at 4 p.m. For children in grades 3-6. All materials will be provided to create your own glass ornament. Registration is required. Call 465-7721 or visit [www.hollislibrary.org](http://www.hollislibrary.org).

• **CRAZY CARDS** at Kelley

Library (234 Main St., Salem) Thurs., Dec. 20, at 3:30 p.m. For grades 2-5, visit the library and create your own greeting card. Registration is required. Call 898-7064.

• **HOLIDAY TEA PARTY** at Hollis Social Library (2 Monument Sq., Hollis) Fri., Dec. 21, at 11:45 a.m. For ages 2-5, visit the library for cookies, juice and stories. Register by calling 465-7721 or visiting [www.hollislibrary.org](http://www.hollislibrary.org).

• **SANTA'S BIG PARTY** at Charmingfare Farm (774 High St., Candia) each Saturday and Sunday through Sun., Dec. 23. Take a 30-minute horse-drawn wagon ride to Santa's party location and spend some time with Santa. Admission is \$17. Advance purchase is recommended. Call 483-5623 or visit [www.visitthefarm.com](http://www.visitthefarm.com).

• **STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER** at the Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford) Thurs., Dec. 27, 7-8 p.m. Bring a stuffed animal to the library, tuck it into bed and read a bedtime story. Then, pick up the stuffed animal on Fri., Dec. 28. Call 673-2408, email [refdesk@wadleighlibrary.org](mailto:refdesk@wadleighlibrary.org) or visit [www.wadleighlibrary.org](http://www.wadleighlibrary.org).

## Teen/tween events

• **TEEN VIDEO CHALLENGE** at Goffstown Public Library (2 High St., Goffstown). Join this national competition by filming a 30-90 second video that promotes the summer reading program and the theme of "Beneath the Surface." A winner is chosen from each state and can win \$275 and \$125 for the library. Call 497-2102.

• **TEEN COOKING CLUB** at Derry Public Library (64 E. Broadway, Derry) on Thurs.,

Dec. 13, Jan. 3, Jan. 17, Jan. 31, Feb. 14 and Feb. 28, 3-4:30 p.m. Learn to cook a variety of different foods. Call 432-6140.

• **DIGITAL PAINTING TEEN WORKSHOP** at Sharon Arts Center (457 Route 123, Sharon) Sat., Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Workshop is for those who have beginner skills in digital painting. Enrollment is \$82.

• **HOLIDAY COOKING, CRAFT AND MOVIE AFTER-NOON** at Derry Public Library (64 E. Broadway, Derry) Thurs., Dec. 20, 3-5 p.m. Visit the library for holiday food, art and a movie. Call 432-6140.

• **VACATION WEEK TEEN FILM** at Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua) Wed., Dec. 26, at 6 p.m. Visit the library for movie night. Call 589-4646.

## Vacation Camps

• **BECK'S ARTS EXPRESS** 5 Pine St., Ext., Nashua, offers a vacation camp Wed., Dec. 26, Thurs., Dec. 27 and Fri., Dec. 28, 9 a.m. to noon. Activities are available for ages 7-14 and includes manga, clay and mosaics. Cost is \$45 per day. Students can take part in as many days as they choose. Visit [artsexpressnh.com](http://artsexpressnh.com).

• **SEACOAST SCIENCE CENTER** 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, offers Trex 4 Tots for ages 3 1/2-5 and Seaside Safari for grades K-5, Wed., Dec. 26, Thurs., Dec. 27 and Fri., Dec. 28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Activities center around nature and science. Cost is \$55 per day. Call 436-8043 or visit [seacoastsciencecenter.org](http://seacoastsciencecenter.org).

• **YMCA OF GREATER MANCHESTER** offers vacation camps at its Downtown Branch (30 Mechanic St., Manchester, 623-3558) Allard Center Branch (116 Goffstown Back Road, Goffstown, 497-4663) and Londonderry Branch (206 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 437-9622) Wed., Dec. 26, Thurs., Dec. 27 and Fri., Dec. 28. Prices vary by program and activity. Visit [yogm.org](http://yogm.org).

• **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE** 6 Washington St., Dover is hosting a LEGO camp with L&GO Your Mind Thurs., Dec. 27 and Fri., Dec. 28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For ages 6-9, make a LEGO amusement park. Cost is \$130. Call 742-2002 or visit [childrens-museum.org](http://childrens-museum.org).

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

**Workshops, seminars & events**

• **LOVING KINDNESS WORKSHOP** at Aryaloka Buddhist Center (14 Heartwood Circle, Newmarket) Sat., Dec. 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Take part in meditation, humor and friendship to destress before the holidays. Admission is a voluntary sliding

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**INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT**

# Indoor gardens

This week I just wanted to share some ideas with you to ease the winter blues and hopefully give you something fun to do.

Why not make yourself an indoor gardening space? Begin your collection with a potting table. This can be a table of any size, but try keeping it by a window. To the table, add a few vintage flower pots and perhaps a couple of hand garden tools in bright colors. Incorporate a shelf above the table and throw a few gardening books on it, along with a couple of planters and/or flower pots.



Bring in a couple of old galvanized tin buckets and fill one with potting soil. Find an old scoop and maybe even leave some empty pots in the tin bucket. Next, find a chair – any old straight chair will do – and paint it a bright color that pleases you. Add a cushion to the chair seat and pull it up to the gardening table. Add an old watering can to the display.

Throw down an old well-worn rug on the floor. Add a few favorite flowers to old flower pots; there are lots of flowering plants you can grow inside for the winter. Place some old bottles filled with water and some of your favorite fresh cut flowers on your bench, and replace as needed through the cold winter.

Even a very tiny space can provide a getaway in which you can take a few minutes and relax, sip hot chocolate and enjoy a good book, and remember that spring is on its way soon. Maybe then you can move this all outside if you have the space or onto a porch so you can continue to enjoy your gardening space.

When shopping for what you need, remember to purchase local and help out your community by supporting flea markets, antiques shops and florists for just about anything you may need. I would like to say pick up old, but really anything that fits into your décor – new, used or antique – will do. This is going to be your space, so make it all about you. Remember: recycle, re-purpose and re-use.

*Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor and a licensed auctioneer. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or email her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).*

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scale of \$30, \$40 or \$50. Visit [www.aryaloka.org](http://www.aryaloka.org).

• **MEDITATION RETREAT** at Aryaloka Buddhist Center (14 Heartwood Circle, Newmarket) Fri., Dec. 21, 7 p.m.-Sun., Dec. 30, 3 p.m. The theme will be “Taming the Mind, Opening the Heart.” During the retreat, meditation, discussion sessions and other activities will be available. The fee is on a voluntary sliding scale of \$400, \$500 or \$600. Call 659-5456 for alternate pricing information. Email [info@aryaloka.org](mailto:info@aryaloka.org) or visit [www.aryaloka.org](http://www.aryaloka.org).

[miguel.moralez@sba.gov](mailto:miguel.moralez@sba.gov).

**MARKETING & BUSINESS Networking**

• **SBA CONSULTATIONS** at the NH Secretary of State Corporate Division (25 Capitol St., Third Floor, Concord) Dec. 13, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Dec. 20, 3-4 p.m., and Dec. 27, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Learn information about how to start or expand a business. Admission is free and appointments are not required. Call 225-1601 or email

**MISCELLANEOUS Sales/fundraisers/auctions**

• **DOLL CLOTHES RAFFLE** at Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson). The Drop-in Stitchers have supplied a basket of clothes for an 18-inch doll that will be raffled off to support the library's children's room. Tickets cost \$1 (or six for \$5) and a winner will be selected Fri., Dec. 14. Call 886-6030.

• **COOKIES FOR A CAUSE** at the First Congregational Church (15 Lawrence Road, Salem) Sat., Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Join in a cookie walk at the church for a chance to win treats and to benefit the Scott Marino Fund. Call 893-3421 or visit [www.FCC-Salem.org](http://www.FCC-Salem.org).

• **HOLIDAY COSMIC BOWLATHON** at Strikers East (4 Essex Drive, Raymond) Tues., Dec. 18, 7-10 p.m. Admission is \$25 and benefits the High Hopes Foundation. Call High Hopes at 429-1010 or Strikers East at 895-

9501.

• **PATRIOTS CHARITY BASKETBALL GAME** at Londonderry High School (295 Mammoth Road, Londonderry) Sat., Jan. 19, at 2 p.m. Former New England Patriots players, including Patrick Pass and Ronnie Lippett will play in the game and afterward, will be available for photos and autographs. The suggested donation of \$10 will benefit programs supported by the Londonderry High School Boosters.

**Holiday**

• **HOLIDAY MARKET** at Brady Sullivan Plaza (1000 Elm St., Manchester) on Thursdays, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Sat., Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit with crafters, artisans and bakers. Visit [www.intownmanchester.com](http://www.intownmanchester.com).

• **JOYEUX NOEL** at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter (12 Elm St., Exeter) Fri., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. Learn about the Christmas truce between



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### Artsy events

• Get in touch with your creative side during **Art Afternoon**. Visit Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford) on Friday, Dec. 14, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., to study paintings by a famous artist. Then get started on your own work of art using that artist's style. This program is for students in grades 2 to 5. Call 672-6064 or visit [www.wadleighlibrary.org](http://www.wadleighlibrary.org).

• Add some color to your holiday decorations with a **painted ornament workshop**. Visit Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center (30 Ash St., Hollis) on Friday, Dec. 14, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and use some paint to create holiday gifts. Get in the spirit of the season even more with some hot cocoa and music. Cost is \$20, and parents can join in for an additional \$5.

### Meet Santa

• Tell Santa what you want for Christmas live on TV. Visit the **Londonderry Access Center** (281 Mammoth Road, Londonderry) on Saturday, Dec. 15, 1-3 p.m., and meet Santa and sing Christmas carols live on CTV-20 in Londonderry. Admission is free. Visit [www.lactv.com](http://www.lactv.com) or call 432-1147.

• If one thing can top being on TV with Santa, it might just be meeting **Saint Nick in a candy store**. Head to Van Otis Chocolates (341 Elm St., Manchester) on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and get your picture taken with Santa. The store will also be offering face painting and kids' crafts. Call 627-1611 or visit [vanotischocolates.com](http://vanotischocolates.com).

### Holiday festivities

• Head to the Lakes Region for **Christmas at the Farm**. Moulton Farm (18 Quarry Road, Meredith) will host a holiday festival on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit the farm for hayrides, cookie

decorating and visits with the farm animals. At 1 p.m., Santa will be arriving by tractor. Admission is free. Call 279-3915 or visit [www.moultonfarm.com](http://www.moultonfarm.com).

• Where there was once a haunted house now stands a winter wonderland. 12 Simon St. in Nashua is known as New England FearFest at Nightmare New England during Halloween, but now it has been transformed into the **Nashua Family Holiday Fair**. Head to the fair on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., for crafts, vendors and kids' games, face painting and a visit from Santa. Admission is \$3 per person with a family maximum of \$10. Children under 3, military members with ID and first responders receive free admission. Visit [www.oneail.wix.com/nashuafair](http://www.oneail.wix.com/nashuafair).

### Cookies for a cause

• There will be plenty of cookies to choose from and bring home at the **Cookie Walk** at the First Congregational Church of Salem (15 Lawrence Road, Salem) on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pick out cookies and visit the chance table to enter raffles and bring even more items home. Cookie walk proceeds benefit the Scott Marino Fund to make the church's back entrance handicap accessible. Call 893-3421 or visit [www.FCC-Salem.org](http://www.FCC-Salem.org).

### Sing a song

• Ring in the season with **Christmas carols in Stark Park** (River Road, Manchester). On Sunday Dec. 16, from 4 to 5 p.m., Christine Munz and Deacon Edward Munz will lead a community chorus group in holiday favorites. Admission is free, and visitors are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the New Horizons Soup Kitchen. Visit [www.friendsofstarkpark.org](http://www.friendsofstarkpark.org).

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• **CHRISTMAS AT CANTERBURY** at Canterbury Shaker Village (288 Shaker Road, Canterbury) Sat., Dec. 15, 3-8 p.m. Visit the Shaker Village for horse-drawn carriage rides, performances and crafts. Admission is \$17 for adults, \$8 for ages 6-17 and free for children younger than 5. Call 783-9511 or visit [www.shakers.org](http://www.shakers.org).

• **FESTIVAL OF TREES** at the Wright Museum (77 Center St., Wolfeboro) Sat., Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sun., Dec. 16, noon-3 p.m. Check out a variety of decorated trees and live entertainment. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 8 and younger. Family admission is

\$12. Call 515-1088 or visit [www.wolfeborofestivaloftrees.com](http://www.wolfeborofestivaloftrees.com).

• **YULETIDE GALA** at Grap-pone Conference Center (70 Constitution Ave., Concord) Sat., Dec. 15, 7-11 p.m. featuring live and silent auction and music from Nazyzy of WJYY radio. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$80 per couple. Proceeds benefit Concord area women and children in crisis. Call 568-2130 or visit [www.jsleconcord.org](http://www.jsleconcord.org).

• **LIVE NATIVITY EVENT** at Middle Street Baptist Church (18 Court St., Portsmouth), Sat., Dec. 15, at 3:30, 4:30 or 5:30 p.m. Event is free. Refreshments and fellowship served inside the church. Visit [www.middlestreet-baptist.org](http://www.middlestreet-baptist.org).

• **CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN STARK PARK** at Stark Park (River Road, Manchester) Sun., Dec. 16, 4-5 p.m. Visit the park and listen to carols sung by a

local community chorus group. Admission is free. Visit [www.friendsofstarkpark.org](http://www.friendsofstarkpark.org).

• **PEACE LIGHT FROM BETHLEHEM** at Bedford Presbyterian Church (4 Church Road, Bedford), Sun., Dec. 16, 4-7 p.m. Bring your own oil lantern to be lit. Email Gretchen Osgood at [pack114den7@gmail.com](mailto:pack114den7@gmail.com).

• **CHRISTMAS TREE SALE** at Lafayette Plaza on Route 1 in Portsmouth, through Fri., Dec. 21. The lot will be open Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sale is presented by the Portsmouth Rotary Club.

• **CHRISTMAS EVE ON THE OVAL** at the Milford Oval (Union Square, Milford) Mon., Dec. 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Visit downtown Milford for a Christmas carol service. Refreshments will be available. Call the Light of the World Christian Church at



## DE-STRESS YOUR HOLIDAYS



The Aryaloka Buddhist Center (14 Heartwood Circle, Newmarket) is offering a way to de-stress and get relaxed before the holidays. The Going Deeper into Meta workshop is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The workshop will focus on expanding on "loving kindness" in regard to oneself and friends and family through meditation. The cost is on a sliding scale of \$50, \$40 or \$30. Call 659-5456 or visit [www.aryaloka.org](http://www.aryaloka.org).

673-9324 or the Burns Hill Christian Fellowship at 673-7301.

• **PHYZZIG FESTIVAL SOUTH** at the West End Studio Theatre (959 Islington St., Portsmouth) Wed., Dec. 26, through Sun., Dec. 30, at 2 p.m. The festival is family-oriented and features magic and vaudeville style acts. Tickets are \$15. Call 436-6660, email [info@pontine.org](mailto:info@pontine.org) or visit [www.pontine.org](http://www.pontine.org).

### Other

• **LIFE IN PARIS** at Hooksett Library (31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett), Thurs., Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. Visit with Henry Smith, a professor interested in the lives of the French. Admission is free. Visit [www.hooksettlibrary.org](http://www.hooksettlibrary.org).

• **NASHUA REPUBLICAN CITY COMMITTEE MEETING** at the Hampton Inn (407 Amherst St., Nashua) Thurs., Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. Bring a dish for a potluck dinner. There will also be elections for officers and for the NH GOP State Committee. Call Andrew Cernota at 886-6100 or Di Lothrop at 864-9287 or visit [www.nashuagop.org](http://www.nashuagop.org).

• **HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE** at the Rochester Historical Society (58 Hanson St., Rochester) Thurs., Dec. 13, from 1 to 6 p.m. The society building will be decorated for the holidays. Call 330-3099 or visit [www.rochesterhistoricalnh.org](http://www.rochesterhistoricalnh.org).

• **ACTORSINGERS SOCIAL EVENT AND INFO NIGHT** at Actorsingers Hall (219 Lake St., Nashua) Fri., Dec. 14, 7-10 p.m. An information about the March production of *Seussical Jr.*, followed by a birthday celebration for the hall from 8-10 p.m. Admission is \$5. Call 889-9691 or visit [www.actorsingers.org](http://www.actorsingers.org).

• **CONCORD CASH MOB** in Bicentennial Square, Concord, Sat., Dec. 15, at 11 a.m. Bring \$20 to spend at downtown businesses. Some may have discounts

for cash mob participants.

• **MONTHLY DRUM CIRCLE** at Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center (30 Ash St., Hollis) Sat., Dec. 15, 5-6:30 p.m. For all ability levels, learn the basics of West African hand drumming. Admission is \$10 and registration is required. Call 465-9453 or visit [www.wildsalamander.com](http://www.wildsalamander.com).

• **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** at the Bedford Historical Society (24 N. Amherst Road, Bedford) Fri., Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-noon. Visit the museum to learn about the Stevens-Buswell Community Center and sample the Stevens-Buswell blend of coffee from CQ Roasters. Admission is free and visitors are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the New Hampshire Food Bank. Call 471-6336 or [www.bedfordhistoricalnh.org](http://www.bedfordhistoricalnh.org).

• **WORLD MEDITATION** at the Holistic Self Care Center (12 Murphy Drive, Nashua) Fri., Dec. 21, noon-1 p.m., and 6-7 p.m. Join the meditation for peaceful thoughts to begin the new year. Admission is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$5. Call 883-1490, email [info@thehsc-center.com](mailto:info@thehsc-center.com) or visit [thehsc-center.com](http://thehsc-center.com).

• **E-READER TRAINING** at Tucker Free Library (31 Western Ave., Henniker) Wed., Dec. 26, Thurs., Dec. 27 and Fri., Dec. 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit the library to learn how to download books to an e-reader. Call 428-3471 or visit [www.tuckerfreelibrary.org](http://www.tuckerfreelibrary.org).

### MUSEUMS & TOURS Exhibits

• **NASHUA TRADE CARDS EXHIBIT** at Nashua City Hall (229 Main St., Nashua), on display through Dec. 31 in the Nashua Historical Society case. The exhibit features trade cards from Nashua businesses that have been collected throughout the city's history. City Hall is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There

is no charge to view the display. • **VOICES ON THE FRONT: NH AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR** is on view at the NH Historical Society's museum at 6 Eagle Square, Concord, through Dec. 31. Admission is \$5.50 (\$3 for children). Call 856-0604.

### Ongoing

• **BOOTT DISCOVERY TRAIL** Pick up work aprons and time cards at the museum entrance and, through hands-on activities, explore how raw cotton was made into finished cloth at Lowell National Historical Park.

• **CONVENTION MEMORABILIA DISPLAY** in the Speare Museum of the Nashua Historical Society features nearly 250 political items drawn from the Republican National Conventions of 1988 in New Orleans and 2008 in Minneapolis-St. Paul. The exhibit will be open Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment some Saturdays. Call 883-0015.

• **GOV. JOHN LANGDON HOUSE** in Portsmouth is a national historic landmark featuring a Georgian mansion where John Langdon resided. Open Friday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$6. Call 436-3205.

• **HISTORICAL ROOMS** at the Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library (7 Forest Road, Wilton), Thursdays, 1:30-6 p.m. Operated by the Wilton Historical Society, the rooms house many artifacts from the town's history.

• **JOHN PAUL JONES HOUSE** in Portsmouth features artifacts from the Portsmouth Peace Treaty of 1905 and from John Paul Jones, an American naval hero. Open 7 days a week, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$6. Call 436-8420.

• **LEGO MILLIYARD PROJECT** representing Manchester's downtown and Amoskeag Milliyard as they might have looked circa 1900, on display at SEE Science Center (200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400), open weekdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., see [sciencecenter.org](http://sciencecenter.org). This 55-to-1 scale model is the largest permanent Lego installation at miniature scale in the world.

• **MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** holds open houses the second weekend of each month, April through December, from 2 to 4 p.m. The Historical Society is in the Carey House at 6 Union St., Milford. Admission is free. Go to [milfordnhhistory.org](http://milfordnhhistory.org).

• **MOFFATT-LADD HOUSE & GARDENS** in Portsmouth is a national historic landmark. The house is furnished as it was in 1763. Tours go for an hour and are held Mon. through Sat., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 41 ▶

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# Holiday gifts for the gardener

Make your own, buy cheap or splurge

By Henry Homeyer  
listings@hippopress.com

When I was a boy we made lots of our own Christmas gifts. I remember making a wooden whale for my dad that held pencils. It had little holes just the diameter of pencils I drilled into it. I must have been 8 or 9 when I made it, and I have no idea how I was able to do it without his help. Maybe it was a Cub Scout project. Not elegant, but there was lots of love in it.

As gardeners, we can make presents, too, if we have extra produce that we have put up. **Dried tomatoes, pickles, even a frozen bag of blueberries or elderberries** would be much appreciated, I'm sure, though putting frozen berries under the tree might not work well. And then there are heirloom seeds. I grow certain tomatoes and peppers that are not commercially available. I save seeds each year and share with friends. These are all good presents that cost nothing.

Although seed catalogs used to come in the mail in mid-winter, now most seeds are available online before Christmas. **A few packages of seeds** are nice low-budget gifts. I get many of my seeds from Johnny's Select Seeds in Maine ([www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)), High Mowing Seeds of Vermont ([www.highmowingseeds.com](http://www.highmowingseeds.com)) or Hudson Valley Seed Library ([www.seedlibrary.org](http://www.seedlibrary.org)), which is a non-profit with nice heirloom seeds.

From Johnny's this year I got two kinds of tomato seeds that are fairly resistant to late blight. First there was the Defiant F-1, which produced well early on, but then died off when other fungal diseases took over. Then there was Mountain Magic, a small salad-type tomato that was very disease resistant and productive for me. All of the High Mowing seeds are organic, which I like.

Also in the cheap (or shall we say "frugal") category is **a gift certificate for an hour or two of weeding**. That's a gift anyone would really appreciate. And feel free to send me one! Weeding is a pleasant enough task, but is always more fun if done with a friend.

Before going on to more conventional gardening presents, let me point out that most things I will mention are available locally at your garden center, feed and grain or hardware store. I firmly believe that it is better to buy locally than online, as that keeps our family-owned businesses healthy. And they are the ones that support our teams, schools and charities.

**Gardening gloves** are always useful. The Atlas Glove company makes a thin, tough nitrile gardening glove that is sold for under \$10. Stretchy nylon coated with waterproof nitrile. Buy them locally, or from Gardener's Supply Company ([www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com)) in a variety of pretty colors.

Also from Gardener's Supply is a nice **expandable bamboo**

**trellis**. A friend gave me one, and I used it for growing my peas. Instead of letting it touch the soil, I tied it onto posts so the bottom was 6 inches off the ground, to minimize rot. Cost? \$20 to \$25, depending on size.

On the high end of the spectrum would be a new wheelbarrow. The best I have found is the **Muller's Smart Cart** ([mullerscarts.com](http://mullerscarts.com)). It is a 7 (or 12) cubic foot polyethylene bin that pops in (or out) of an aluminum frame. I have the 7-ft model and have used it hard for over 10 years, yet have never had a flat tire or any other problem with it. The fact that the barrow part is removable allows me to use it to wash the dog in it or carry manure in the back of my sedan. They cost \$350, with free shipping. I chose the wide tires, not the bike tires, and find them great, even in soggy conditions. This is a very high quality wheelbarrow that is rated to carry up to 600 lbs.

Every year I recommend my favorite weeding tool, the **CobraHead weeder** ([CobraHead.com](http://CobraHead.com)). This tool is great for getting under weeds, teasing out roots, stirring compost or fertilizer into planting holes, planting bulbs and more. You should be able to find it locally. Cost is about \$25.

A gardening magazine subscription would be nice, too. I get **Fine Gardening magazine** ([www.finegardening.com](http://www.finegardening.com)). The magazine has a nice balance of growing information and



Muller's Smart Cart. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

design ideas with excellent color photography, for \$29.95 a year.

I've fallen in love with **Tub-Trugs**. These are brightly colored flexible buckets I use for carrying weeds, compost and even water. From 3 gallons to 10 gallons, their flexible handles make them easy to carry. Found locally or from Gardener's Supply in a variety of sizes and colors, around \$10.

**Gardening books** are good gifts, but look for quality info, not necessarily glossy pictures. My website, [Gardening-guy.com](http://Gardening-guy.com), lists about 25 good ones. Just click on the "Gardener's Basic Library" on the top bar.



The CobraHead weeder. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

So enjoy the holidays, but remember that Santa's elves make lots of presents. Get creative and be an elf yourself!

Henry Homeyer's new book is for children ages 8 and up. It's called *Wobar and the Quest for the Magic Calumet*. Go to [henry-homeyer.com](http://henry-homeyer.com) to learn more. 🍁

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# Garages make cars happy



*Dear Tom and Ray:*  
*My boyfriend and I disagree on whether to keep the car in the garage. He thinks it cuts down on the life of the car (something about cooling the engine). I think a car lives longer if kept in a garage. Please advise. — Evelyn*

TOM: Your boyfriend is being an oil stain on the garage floor of your life, Evelyn. Garages are great for cars — and for their drivers.

RAY: At the very least, a garage will protect the exterior of your car from the elements, including those acidic pigeon and pterodactyl droppings. And if it spends every night — or half its life — under a roof, it'll look good for about twice as long.

TOM: From what we see in real life, that's about right. Cars we work on that are garaged look a lot better than non-garaged

cars their age.

TOM: The length of time it takes the engine to cool down makes no difference to anything. So, as far as we know, there's absolutely no downside to keeping your car in an unheated garage.

RAY: A heated garage is even better, even though it does create one downside for the car. If you live in the part of the country where it snows and they use salt on the roads, by storing it in a warm garage every night, you may slightly speed up the rusting process.

TOM: How? Well, let's say you drive on a cold, snowy day, and you get salty ice and slush all over the car. Then you get home at night and pull into your heated garage. What happens? The ice melts. And you're left with salt, water and warm air -- perfect ingredients for oxidation (i.e., rust).

RAY: Whereas if you leave the car outside, and the temperature stays below freezing, oxidation is inhibited by the lower temperatures, and the rusting process slows down a tiny bit.

TOM: On the other hand, if it's snowy and icy and miserable, who cares? That's when you really want to have a heated garage! You want that stuff to melt off overnight so you don't have to kick it out of

your wheel wells like Nanook of the North does with his dogsled.

RAY: Plus, there are some very real mechanical advantages to parking your car in a heated garage overnight. Most notably, because the oil remains warmer and less viscous, it does a much better job of lubricating your engine from the moment you start the car. You prevent a lot of long-term damage to the engine that way.

TOM: So, by all means, use your garage, Evelyn. And if you've got a heated garage, use that, too, with the caveat that it's a good idea to get your car washed and get rid of the salt after a week in which the roads have been salted.

*Dear Tom and Ray:*  
*My 2003 Toyota Tundra 4x4 truck makes a loud vibrating noise. It isn't the alignment or tires, and it doesn't appear to be the bearings. The vibrations only begin around 22 mph, and then get increasingly louder/stronger up to about 45 mph, when they go away. The vibrations are there whether I am accelerating, coasting (even in neutral) or braking. The vibrations go away entirely when I switch the truck into four-wheel drive. Some days the vibrations don't show up at all. Any ideas? Thanks. — Kyle*

TOM: Well, if you're confident that the tires are well-balanced, the next thing I'd have someone check is the drive shaft.

RAY: When they tell you the drive shaft is fine, then you'll want to grab your wallet and hold on to it tightly and dearly.

TOM: Because then the problem is more likely in the transmission or transfer case. The dealer or perhaps a transmission specialist is the best person to investigate that.

RAY: But be aware that it may be difficult to diagnose with a high degree of certainty, and that whatever they propose to fix probably will be very expensive. So I'd be reluctant to authorize a big repair unless you have a lot of confidence that your mechanic has absolutely identified the source of the problem.

TOM: Alternatively, you could just keep driving and wait until whatever is vibrating eventually falls off. Then you could jump out of the car, go over to the side of the road, pick it up, take a cab to the nearest parts store and say, "Give me one of these."

*Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack by visiting the Car Talk website at [www.cartalk.com](http://www.cartalk.com).*



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## BUY SOME GIFTS



There are only a couple more chances to visit the Downtown Manchester Holiday Market, which will be open on Thursday, Dec. 13, and Thursday, Dec. 20, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 15, from noon to 2 p.m., at the Brady Sullivan Plaza (1000 Elm St., Manchester). More than 40 vendors from around the area will be in attendance with crafts, food and toys on display. Kids will also have an opportunity to visit with Santa at the market. Call 645-6285 or visit [www.intownmanchester.com](http://www.intownmanchester.com). Pictured: Items on display from the Bakeshop on Kelley Street. Courtesy photo.

▲ 37 1 to 5 p.m. House and garden tours cost \$6. Call 436-8221 or go to [moffattladd.org](http://moffattladd.org).  
**• NEW ENGLAND SYNTHESIZER MUSEUM** features vintage synthesizers at 6 Vernon St., Nashua, 881-8587, [synthmuseum.com](http://synthmuseum.com). Call for appointment. Email [dwilsynth@aol.com](mailto:dwilsynth@aol.com).  
**• USS ALBACORE** in Portsmouth is a historical vessel worth visiting. The park is open 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. every day from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. Admission is \$5. Call 436-3680 or go to [ussalbacore.org](http://ussalbacore.org).  
**• WARNER HOUSE** in Portsmouth is the earliest extant brick urban mansion in New England. Open Wednesday through Monday from noon to 4 p.m. Admission price is \$5. Call 436-5909 or go to [warnerhouse.org](http://warnerhouse.org).

### Tours

**• CLYDESDALE CAMERA DAY** at Anheuser-Busch (221 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 595-1202, [budweisertours.com](http://budweisertours.com)) on the first Saturday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring a camera and pose for a photo with a world-famous Budweiser Clydesdale.  
**• EDUCATIONAL FARM AT JOPPA HILL** (174 Joppa Hill Road, 472-4724, Bedford) is a nonprofit organization operated exclusively for the charitable and educational purposes of increasing public awareness of sustainable agriculture. Farm tours are given daily to children and adults. Classes in sustainable organic agriculture and horsemanship lessons are available.  
**• PORTSMOUTH BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL** is a self-guided walking tour through neighborhoods where Portsmouth's black residents lived, worked and celebrated. Call 431-2768 or go to [pbhtrail.org](http://pbhtrail.org).

### NATURE & GARDENING

#### Animals/insects/plants

**• CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** at locations throughout New Hampshire on Sat., Dec. 29. For all locations visit [birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count](http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count). After the bird count the Nashaway Chapter will host a dinner at the Lawrence Barn (28 Depot Road, Hollis). Call 429-2537 or email [rbielawski@mac.com](mailto:rbielawski@mac.com).  
**• RAVEN FEEDING** at the Massabesic Audubon Center (26 Audubon Way, Amherst, 668-2045, [nhaudubon.org](http://nhaudubon.org)) every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Watch as feeders give the raven his daily meal. Free.  
**• SHOREBIRDS FIELD TRIP** Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, offers regular field trips to look for birds at the shore. Costs \$15.  
**• SNAKE FEEDING** at Massabesic Audubon Center (26 Audubon Way, Amherst, 668-2045, [nhaudubon.org](http://nhaudubon.org)) every Sunday, 11:30 a.m. Watch the ball pythons eat lunch and even get to touch them. Free.  
**• EVOLUTION OF BALEEN WHALES EXHIBITION** at the Seacoast Science Center (570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, ext. 12). Learn about humpback whales' ancient ancestors. Exhibition includes a life-sized model of Ambulocetus, the first whale ancestor, a video and three new toothed-whale skeletons.  
**• OTTER ENRICHMENT** at Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness) every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 11:30 a.m. Learn about river otters and watch as a live otter eats. Admission is \$15 (\$12 for ages 65+, \$10 for ages 3-15, free for 2 and younger). Call 968-7194 or visit [nhnature.org](http://nhnature.org).

### Astronomy

**• SKYWATCH** at Amherst Town Library (14 Main St., Amherst) Wed., Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m. The skywatch will focus on the first quarter moon and New Hampshire Astronomical Society members will bring telescopes. An "introduction to astronomy talk" will be held before the skywatch. Admission is free and registration is available by calling 673-2288 emailing [library@amherst.lib.nh.us](mailto:library@amherst.lib.nh.us) or visiting [www.amherst.lib.nh.us](http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us).

### SPORTS & RECREATION

#### Biking/races

**• GRANITE STATE WHEELMEN** ([granitestatewheelmen.org](http://granitestatewheelmen.org)) is a recreational biking club offering rides for all levels ages 18+. Rides takes place Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, as well as Mondays and Wednesdays after work. There are a number of leaders to guide small groups on rides of various distances and speeds on mostly back roads. Must wear a helmet. Call Cathy at 224-0346.  
**• NASHUA CRITICAL MASS** is a celebratory event for cyclists promoting the peaceful existence of bikes and cars on the same road. There is a ride the last Friday of every month in Nashua. The course covers about four miles at a pace suitable for all ages and levels of experience. Critical Mass meets at 6 p.m. and the group departs from the parking deck on Factory Street at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact [CMNashua@gmail.com](mailto:CMNashua@gmail.com).  
**• NEW ENGLAND MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION** offers rides and opportunity to help preserve trails. Look for information on the southern NH chapter at [nemba.org](http://nemba.org).  
**• NH CYCLING CLUB** ([nhcyclingclub.com](http://nhcyclingclub.com)) is an organization for people of all ages who want to compete in bike races. Membership costs \$25.

#### Runs/running/walks

**• ATHLETIC ALLIANCE** ([www.nhathleticalliance.com](http://www.nhathleticalliance.com)) is a nonprofit running club based in Manchester open to all ages and ability levels.  
**• GATE CITY STRIDERS** ([www.gatecity.org](http://www.gatecity.org)) club for runners at all levels, from recreational joggers to competitive runners.

#### Spectator

**• MANCHESTER FREEDOM** women's tackle football team plays at West Memorial Field in Manchester. See [www.manchesterfreedom.com](http://www.manchesterfreedom.com).  
**• MANCHESTER MAYHEM** is a roller derby team in Manchester. Visit [rollerderbymanchester.com](http://rollerderbymanchester.com) to learn about joining or volunteering for the new team.  
**• MANCHESTER MON-ARCHS** are an affiliate of the NHL's L.A. Kings, and

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## INSIDE/OUTSIDE

# Peek into Christmases past

Antique collector shows vintage side of the holidays

By Cory Francer  
cfrancer@hippopress.com

Beverly Weir-Longacre is constantly in search of antiques to add to her collection. But the items she finds are for more than just decoration; they are all pieced together to create a three-dimensional work of art.

Much like a collage can be created from found items, Weir-Longacre uses the same ideals in her craft, with three requirements: the items must be antiques, the results must be three-dimensional, and, most importantly, they must have a Christmas theme.

For the past seven years, Weir-Longacre has used items from her collection, which started in 1985, to create a Christmas exhibit for the New Hampshire Antique Co-op in Milford. Each year, the exhibit changes. Some of Weir-Longacre's creations have included Santa's Workshop and Mrs. Claus' Kitchen. In all of her previous installments at the Co-op, Weir-Longacre's exhibits have been full-size creations, but this year she decided to scale it down a bit.

In her miniature North Pole village, a post office is filled with mailbags addressed to Santa, a candy kitchen prepares holiday treats, and an elf school teaches the toy-making trade. Santa's sleigh hangs above the village, and in the windows of the log cabins, children's faces can be seen peeking out to catch a glimpse of the wintry scene.

Though the log cabins, miniature people, reindeer and Christmas trees all appear as one scene, the pieces were all hand-selected by Weir-Longacre over a 20-year period.

"I picked up the children in one place, the trees in one place and then all of a sudden it all nests together," she said.

Weir-Longacre said she first came up with the idea of creating these exhibits as a way to combine and share her love of antique collecting and Christmas.

"It really started because of my love of Christmas and children, having been a teacher," Weir-Longacre said. "I incorporate parts of my life and like to give back, which is what Christmas is all about."

She said the number of people who visit the Antique Co-op to see her work has grown each year. Because of the way Christmas traditions, and in turn ornaments and decorations, are passed along through the generations, families have responded well to her antique Christmas creations.

Jason Hackler, co-owner of the Antique Co-op, said older visitors have told him they are reminded of Christmas traditions from the past. Younger visitors like to find the nuances in the scenes, like the ashes in Santa's pipe in a past exhibit, or the miniature snowballs about to be tossed by child



Beverly Weir-Longacre's vintage North Pole village is on display at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op through Sunday, Jan. 6. Cory Francer photo.

in the current display.

"In many ways this is honoring a tradition of a time of Christmas," Hackler said.

While families have been able to make connections to Christmases past in Weir-Longacre's work, she said, she likes to incorporate her own family into the annual display as well. In prior years, she said a family photo with Santa has been worked into the exhibit, but this year that was not possible because of the miniature aspect of the scene.

"In the back of the village on the far wall there are three little tiny log cabins," Weir-Longacre said. "Those were my father's. They are all from Germany, and maybe having saved them sparked my interest in this."

Though it's not immediately clear to the untrained eye, Weir-Longacre said learning about the items in her display provided an educational look into United States history, world history and global economics. For example, she said, the highest quality pieces come from Germany. But during World War I and II, German-made products were not available, so many Christmas decorations instead came from Japan. The items in her current display demonstrate that disparity.

"The Germans were the most exquisite builders of toys," Weir-Longacre said. "The cabins on display are mostly American made, but we did not do well when it came to making ornaments."

As her audiences continue to grow, Weir-Longacre said she hopes to spread her love of antique collecting and inspire others to start their own collections.

### Vintage North Pole Village

Where: New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Milford  
When: On display through Sunday, Jan. 6. The co-op is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Admission: Free, Call 673-8499 or visit [www.nhantiquecoop.com](http://www.nhantiquecoop.com).

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## TEDDY BEAR SLEEPS OVER



Sometimes, stuffed animals need to get out and socialize too. The Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford) is hosting a stuffed animal sleepover on Thursday, Dec. 27, from 7-8 p.m. Kids are invited to bring a stuffed animal to the library, take part in bedtime stories and have a snack. Then the stuffed animals sleep over and the kids return to pick them up on Friday, Dec. 28. Call 673-2408 or visit [www.wadleighlibrary.org](http://www.wadleighlibrary.org).

41 play their home games at Verizon Wireless Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester). Call 626-7825 or visit [manchestermonarchs.com](http://manchestermonarchs.com).

• **NH ROLLER DERBY** team competes at the JFK Coliseum, 303 Beech St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door; kids 10 and younger get in free. See [nhrollerderby.com](http://nhrollerderby.com).

### Team/competition sports

• **ALL-AGES ARCHERY** classes available for ages 6 to seniors at locations in Bow, Concord, Franklin, Pembroke, New Boston, Bradford, Brentwood and Bedford. Beginner and advance classes offered; equipment provided. Call 224-5768 or email [nesainc@aol.com](mailto:nesainc@aol.com).

• **AMOSKEAG RUGBY CLUB** offers games and instruction for men and women, new and experienced players, as well as youth teams. See [www.amoskeagrhc.com](http://www.amoskeagrhc.com).

• **ARCHERY CLASSES** Concord Recreation Department (1 White St., Concord, 225-8690, [www.ci.concord.nh.us/recreation](http://www.ci.concord.nh.us/recreation)) offers beginner to advanced archery lessons. Instructor is Dana White. Call 225-8690.

• **BADMINTON** Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. at the Racquet Club of Concord, 224-7787.

• **BOXING** classes, training and customized coaching for novice boxers to amateur fighters led by skilled and experienced staff at In The Ring Boxing & Fitness at 1A Rockingham Road, Suite 10, Londonderry, 432-0800, [www.InTheRingFitness.com](http://www.InTheRingFitness.com).

• **CONCORD FENCING CLUB** Hall Street, Concord, 224-3560, [www.concordfencing-club.org](http://www.concordfencing-club.org), offers various levels of instruction, as well as open fencing for USAF members.

• **DODGEBALL** league at Greater Manchester Family YMCA for ages 18 and older. See [www.gmfymca.org](http://www.gmfymca.org) or call Chris Webster at 232-8632.

• **DODGEBALL & SOCCER** Concord-area adults can join a community dodgeball league or a community soccer league, hosted by the Concord recreation department. Both leagues are coed and for ages 20 and older. Dodgeball meets Mondays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Heights Community Center; soccer meets Sunday afternoons. Call 225-8690 or visit [www.onconcord.com/recreation](http://www.onconcord.com/recreation).

• **FLAG FOOTBALL** at White Park (White St., Concord). For ages 18 and older, the league plays Sunday mornings 9-11 a.m. Games are 30 minutes and split into 15-minute halves. Register individually or sign up a full team. Call 225-8690.

• **MANCHESTER FREEDOM** women's tackle football team plays at West Memorial Field in Manchester. See [www.manchesterfreedom.com](http://www.manchesterfreedom.com).

• **NH SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB** ([www.nhssc.com](http://www.nhssc.com), 644-3570) offers coed recreational sports leagues for ages 21 and older in the Manchester and Nashua area. Winter sports include basketball, floor hockey, dodgeball, volleyball, bowling and indoor softball.

• **OPEN GYM** Green Street

Community Center Gym, Concord, is open for pickup basketball games for ages 18 and older. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. Cost is \$3 per visit.

• **PICKUP BASKETBALL GAMES** for 18+ at Green Street Community Center Gym in Concord on Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon-1:15 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. Cost is \$3 per visit. See [www.onconcord.com/recreation](http://www.onconcord.com/recreation).

• **VOLLEYBALL** Bow Recreation Department (2 Knox Road, Bow, 228-2222, [www.bowrecn.com](http://www.bowrecn.com)) offers adults a weekly chance to prove themselves on the volleyball court on Wednesdays, 8 to 11 p.m. throughout the year at Bow Elementary School. The program is free but you must fill out a waiver to participate. Call Pete at 228-5227.

• **VOLLEYBALL** for ages 20 and older, offered by Concord Recreation Department. Co-ed league will have games on Sundays, 1-3 p.m., at the Heights Community Center, Concord. Contact the Concord Recreation Department at 225-8690 or [www.onconcord.com/recreation](http://www.onconcord.com/recreation).

## OVER 50

### Fitness

• **50-PLUS FITNESS** is offered at the Bow Community Building on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:05 a.m. and on Fridays at 9:45 a.m., with low-impact aerobics, strength and balance training and stretching. The cost is \$3.75 or less per class. Call Michele at 774-6160.

• **AEROBICS** combo step and low-impact classes are offered at the Bow Community Building on Mondays at 5:45 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 9:10 a.m. Cost is \$4 a class or less. No step experience is necessary. Call Michele at 774-6160.

• **AQUA-MIX YMCA** ([concordymca.org](http://concordymca.org)) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. This class aims to help participants maintain and improve range of motion, using a high-intensity water fitness program. This class is geared toward active adults. Cost is free to members, \$57 for nonmembers. Call 228-9622.

• **ARTHRITIS AQUATIC PROGRAM** is offered at Greater Manchester YMCA ([gmfmca.org](http://gmfmca.org)) at the downtown branch (30 Mechanic St., 623-3558) and at the Goffstown branch (116 Goffstown Back Road, 497-4663). This class is designed to guide participants through a series of exercises that will improve flexibility, range of motion, joint mobility and muscular strength with the aid of the water's buoyancy and resistive properties. No swimming skills required. Free for members; for nonmembers the Manchester class is \$60 and the Goffstown class is \$40. Call either branch.

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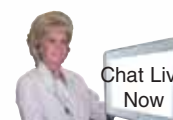
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## INSIDE/OUTSIDE TECHIE GIFT GUIDE

# What geeks want

Presents for dweebs and dorks

By John "jaQ" Andrews  
jandrews@hippopress.com



I'm getting to the age where the best gift I could possibly get is more time: to play with gadgets I already have, to clean, to nap, that sort of thing. Despite more than 40 years of research since Jim Croce's bold mission statement, we have yet to figure out how to put time in a bottle, can, box, or any other container, so you still can't really give it as a gift.

Still, there are plenty of hot items that any geek on your list would love to have.

**Wii U:** Even reviewers aren't quite sure what to make of Nintendo's latest console, but let's face it: if you want to play the latest Mario game, you need it. The single controller it comes with has a screen built in, which can be used in various ways. Some multiplayer games have players using the GamePad, as it's called, to assist their compatriots. Other games let you transfer the gameplay from your television to the built-in screen. It's a bit weird.

For \$300, you get the base console, one GamePad and 8GB of storage space (some of which is taken up by the operating system, blah blah). For an extra \$50, that storage gets bumped up to 32GB and you get the game *NintendoLand*, a collection of 12 minigames in a virtual theme park.

**Tablets:** What? You know a nerd without an iPad? Everybody has an iPad now. The sleek new iPad mini is \$329, while the latest fourth-generation full-size model starts at \$499.

Too much? Android tablets cost less, but it's harder to sort the wheat from the chaff, so stick with brand names to be safe. The 7-inch Nexus 7 from Google is just \$199, and its pedigree ensures that it always has the latest version of Android. If the giftee is

a heavy Amazon user, the newest Kindle Fire HD is also \$199.

Too little? There's always a Microsoft Surface RT. With the keyboard cover, the base model costs \$599. Only for serious Microsoft loyalists, though.

**Accessories:** If your budget is smaller or you're buying for

someone with everything, there's always the accessories market. Find out specifically what gadgets they have and seek out accessories. Smartphones and tablets need cases and screen protectors. So do beloved digital cameras. MP3 players can probably use some decent headphones.

Then there's the ultimate accessory, the gift card. If you're shopping for someone with an iPhone, an iTunes gift card will be most welcome; for an Android lover, a Google Play card will let them buy music and apps.

**USB drives:** I recommend these all the time. They're the little USB sticks with some number of gigabytes of storage available on them; just stick one in a USB port and you have removable storage. Now that everyone's storing stuff in "the cloud" (also known as "online"), they might not seem as vital anymore, but transporting tons of pictures or videos or whatever on a tiny bit of plastic in your pocket is still just plain cool. You can also store entire operating system installs on there, so technician types can boot to their own custom desktop on any machine in the world.

Best of all, they're cheap. Deals vary from week to week, but it's not uncommon to find 32GB USB drives for around \$20. Generally anything under a dollar per gigabyte is a fair price right now.

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## this week's nutrition tip:

### Healthy Holiday Appetizer

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Fresh pears are a good source of fiber which is beneficial for digestion, and a good source of Vitamin C which is an essential antioxidant for normal metabolism and tissue repair. Try this yummy pear appetizer to get your next holiday party started!



### PEAR & CHEDDAR MUSHROOM APPETIZER

*Recipe courtesy of Unilever*

#### Ingredients

- 1 package (16 oz.) white mushrooms
- 1/4 cup *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!*® Spread
- 1 large pear, peeled, cored and finely chopped
- 1 large shallot, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup shredded Cabot® cheddar cheese
- 1 Tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley (optional)
- 1/8 tsp. McCormick's® ground black pepper

#### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Remove and finely chop mushroom stems (about 1-1/4 cups); reserve mushroom caps.
2. Melt *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!*® Spread in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and cook chopped stems, pear and shallot, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes or until tender. Stir in cheese, parsley, and pepper.
3. Evenly stuff reserved mushroom caps with pear mixture, then arrange on baking sheet. Bake 15 minutes or until mushrooms are tender. Garnish, if desired, with cheddar cheese shavings.

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## Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Luke Steere  
lsteere@hippopress.com

• **Soon to brew:** Henniker Brewing Company (129 Centerville Road, Henniker, 428-3579) has been slowly moving toward brewing time since being founded in May 2011 and is looking to begin brewing in mid-December. Co-founders David Currier, Chase Hand and Gregory Bolton began consulting with a brewer for their five-barrel production brewery. They ordered equipment in February and finished up licensing by June, then hired James Moriarty as head brewer. Since July 1 they have been transforming their 22,000-square-foot facility into New Hampshire's newest microbrewery. According to hennikerbrewing.com, their first two releases will be Amber Apparition, an American amber ale, and Hop Slinger IPA.

• **Wishing you a vegan Christmas:** Two cooking classes are coming up in the middle of the month, just in time for Christmas meals or New Year's resolutions. The Total Vegan Gourmet is holding a class on Monday, Dec. 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Concord High School (170 Warren St., Concord). By turning regular food dishes into vegan options, Concord Community Education offers a way to make great tasting food healthy. The class is \$34, and pre-registration is required by calling 225-0804 or visiting classesforlife.com. On the following Thursday, Dec. 20, Louisa Dell'Amico is holding a vegan cooking class and feast at the Pines Community Center. From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. attendees will learn about some of the items being served at the dinner, including warmed purple cabbage, spinach and apple salad; a seitan roast stuffed with walnuts, mushrooms and cranberries; vanilla ginger pear sauce and more. The fee for both is \$40, free for children 12 and under. To register or get more info, contact Louisa at 729-0248 or louisa@metrocast.net. Two checks must be mailed, one for \$25 payable to Pines Community Center, and one for \$15 payable to Louisa Dell'Amico; both can be mailed to PCC, PO Box 262, Tilton, NH 03276.

• **...and a Class-filled New Year:** Liz Barbour's Creative Feast (321-5011, thecreativefeast.com) has finished out her year of cooking demonstration programs, but she has a plethora of them lined up for 2013. She calls them perfect to take with "friends, garden clubs, wellness groups and for corporate fun." Each program includes a discussion relating to a topic of your choice, followed

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## FOOD GIFT GUIDE

# The Yuletide foodie

What to splurge on and stocking-stuff for the kitchen

By Luke Steere  
lsteere@hippopress.com

Everybody's got to eat, so ripping into one of these kitchen gifts from under the tree or out of the stocking is sure to spark the taste buds, inspire the inner chef or at least make things a little easier around the kitchen.

Starting with the pots and the pans, as non-sticks have become the norm, they have also become the subject of scrutiny due to their toxicity. Companies like Swiss Diamond and Green Pan, however, are bringing a new look to the concept by doing without the chemicals. Diane Beauregard of Things Are Cooking (74 N. Main St., Concord, 225-8377, thingsarecooking.com) says that the **Swiss Diamond cookware** is some of the best you can buy.

"It cooks and washes nicely, and you can use metal utensils on it. There are 200,000 diamond crystals embedded on the cooking surface; it's durable. You can use in the oven up to 500 degrees with the lids too," she said.

Things Are Cooking features 10-inch frying pans (\$99.99), 8-inch frying pans (\$49.99) and three-piece sets that also include a pot (\$199.99).

At The Mall of New Hampshire, Le Gourmet (1500 S. Willow St., Manchester, 644-2183) is all about **Green Pan** (\$39.99 a piece), nonstick environmentally friendly cookware.

"With this kind of nonstick, customers don't have to worry about off-gassing, which is a concern when you have certain chemicals in some non-stick products; a lot of manufacturers are trying to move away from those things because of customers' health needs and moving toward ceramic interiors," said Le Gourmet's Kelli Yeager.

They even go so far as to name their collections after environmental accords and conferences: the Lima, Kyoto and Rio models, for example. Furthermore, Yeager said the Fiesta Dinnerware company has been collaborating on colorways, making for popular turquoise, yellow and cobalt blue pans.

Back at Things are Cooking, new-age kitchen items like the **Chop2Pot** (\$15.99) from Joseph, Joseph are among the most colorful on display.

"Greens and blues have been popular in New England in the past couple of years. Newer products are now coming in a lot of different colors, but throwback things are too," Beauregard said.

Chop2Pot is an innovative cutting board with a handle and creased surface that folds,



funneling the chopped produce, meats or otherwise into wherever it's going.

And while you're beating back the hassle of chasing halved mushrooms around the kitchen floor, why not go high-tech with an **Escali's Taso mixing bowl** (\$39.99)? Products from the digital scale company are available at Things are Cooking, but the Taso has proven itself one of Beauregard's recent bestsellers. It can hold 11 pounds and allows you to measure by weight or volume, then mix and pour all in one bowl, which is removable and dishwasher safe.

For an inspired combination, check out the **Lillypad Lid** (\$9.99/\$12.99) by France-based Charles Viancin that Beauregard stocks. Light green and natural looking, the lid is a silicon pad with a suction action that holds fast to smooth rims. Aside from saving on plastic wrap, the Lillypad is microwave and dishwasher safe.

Recipes rock with the **Recipe Rock** (\$9.99), a simple, magnetic stand by Architect for holding up to six pages and



thus a hands-free way to follow along. It's small, and stuffs well into stockings not unlike **rolled-up macaron baking sheets** do. The classic French cookies are getting a renewed appreciation, Beauregard said, and inspiring home cooks to try them out for themselves. Things are Cooking carries the sheets along with a **small cookbook from Mastrad** (\$19.99).

If mornings in this day and age had a symbol, the single-cup coffee maker is in the running for the job. Keurig — perhaps the proprietary eponym for the burgeoning industry — now has a lot of competition, and for one of the best, go Nespresso. Beauregard recommends their line of high-quality espresso makers; **The U** (\$199.99) is Nespresso's sleek and versatile new machine, which features a moveable water reservoir and cup holder to fit just about anywhere on the counter.

"It's a lot different than the Keurig, especially when it comes to their coffee. When you purchase one you join the Nespresso club, and they send you their coffee, and can put you on a delivery schedule, answer any questions and even send you a replacement machine if yours needs repairs," Beauregard said. "It makes a great cup of coffee and their pods are 100 percent recyclable."

Other items to splurge on include a **juicer by Hurom** (\$359.99), which she touted for its slow macerating that makes for raw, quality juice, and more of it, whereas "most juicers are spinning fruits and vegetables at such a high RPM that they heat them up and lose some of their nutrients."

Apartment living has made **Breville smart ovens** (\$249.99) fly off Beauregard's



FOOD

shelves too. These counter-top convection models are larger than toaster ovens, though there is also a toaster-oven sized version (\$179.99), and feature independent heating elements for precise cooking and nine menu functions with suggested ideal temps and time for baking cookies, making pizzas and roasting meats, which the oven automatically adjusts for the next use.

More classically, the store also features **KitchenAid artisan series mixers** (\$349.99) in tangerine, green apple and candy apple colors; they also come with a glossy finish and sharp-looking glass bowls (\$399.99) and with tons of different attachments such as pasta makers, meat grinders, ice cream makers and shredders.

To save some money on the mixers, Le Gourmet features **refurbished KitchenAid Pro-600 stand mixers** (\$279.97). Broken and unwanted mixers are dismantled at their Greenville, Ohio, plant and overhauled, making for fully functional sharp looking products that are half the cost of a new one.

For the wine lover, Vino Aromas (997 Elm St., Manchester, 626-8466) has got **wine and wine boxes**. Wood and leather gift boxes come empty (\$25) or with two bottles of choice wine (\$50) and have been selling like crazy, said owner Dan Villafra. They are available in the store and online.

Over at WineNot (170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569), owner Svetlana Yanushkevich stocks specialty imported items around the holidays, including an **aged Cavedoni balsamic vinegar** (\$27 to \$55), **black French truffles** (\$8.50 for a dozen), **Icelandic black caviar** (\$14.50 for a 2-ounce tin) and more. Also, for an inspired gift idea, check out the six-week **Be Your Own Sommelier** course (\$210), which includes classes over six Fridays beginning Jan. 18 and covers dozens of different flavors, tasting techniques, food pairings and wine history.

**Entertaining supplies** are also available LaBelle Winery (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898) for all sorts of vino swag. Owner Amy LaBelle is sourcing from local artists for some of her stoppers, corkscrews and cozy bags, giving the products a unique look. The winery also features 8- by 12-inch **Brooklyn Slate Co. cheese slates** (\$25).

“They’re made of natural slate so it makes for nice presentation and a lovely way to entertain, especially if you’re going to be serving wonderful wine,” said LaBelle.

At LaBelle, that wine is made from New England grapes, making for unique styles and tasting notes. **Tasting gift certificates** (\$8) with the tasting note sheet are a good introduction, as the events are very casual.

LaBelle’s cooking wines bring a little something different to all sorts of dishes.

Jalapeno pepper wine, made using peppers from Lull Farm in Hollis, earthy Sweet Onion and summery Heirloom Tomato varieties can be used in salsas, marinades and even as a substitutes in mixed drinks. These and other winemaker kitchen products like jams, coffee, honey and vanilla extract can be put in elegant, creative gift baskets during their hours Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays and holiday Mondays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Warm the winter with award-winning **clam chowder** (\$28.95/six cans) from The Old Salt Restaurant at Lamie’s Inn (926-0330). Order online at [www.oldsaltnh.com](http://www.oldsaltnh.com) to have it shipped anywhere in the continental U.S. to add to gift baskets or stuff stockings. Winter weekend packages are also available for Christmas shopping excursions; shop in New Hampshire and then return to Lamies Inn for a relaxing evening and fine food.

Give the gift of organic networking to green-thumbing friends or family with a **Northeast Organic Farmers Association membership**. Individuals can join the organization for a \$20 entry fee which includes quarterly newsletters, discounts on informational conferences and workshops and is a great way to learn about marketing, bulk orders, networking and other things the organization has to offer. Visit [nofanh.org/](http://nofanh.org/) membership to apply.

And what would a gift guide be without cookbooks? Gibson’s Bookstore (27 So. Main St., Concord, 224-0562) owner Michael Herrmann recommends Thomas Keller and Sebastien Rouxel’s **Bouchon Bakery** (\$50), named after Keller’s restaurant. He and his pastry chef provide a written tour of some of the simple, ingenious baked goods served there; it’s a dessert companion to his *French Laundry*.

Gibson’s also recommends **The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook** by Deb Perelman (\$35), a home cook and blogger from Manhattan who focuses on simple, pleasurable recipes with a you-can-do-it attitude; and the erotic spoof **50 Shades of Chicken** (\$19.99 retail; \$15.99 at Gibson’s), written by F.L. Fowler, about the adventures of Miss Chicken and a dominating chef.

“It’s a nice novelty gift that’s perfect for people who have read *50 Shades of Grey* or like to cook. It’s actually got some pretty good chicken recipes in it. It’s a staff pick at our store,” Herrmann said.

Or, of course, you could rediscover Julia Child (2012 would’ve been her 100th birthday) with Bob Spitz’s **Dearie: The Remarkable Life of Julia Child** or her own **Mastering the Art of French Cooking**, which remains in print and a culinary classic. 🍷



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## FOOD

# Dine out this Christmas

Restaurants offering special meals



By Luke Steere  
lsteere@hippopress.com

## Christmas Eve

• **The Airport Diner** (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040) is going to be open all day on Christmas Eve, serving its regular menu as well as plated ham and turkey dinner specials with sides of mashed potatoes, vegetables and more.

• With their fireplaces lit and dining rooms decorated, the **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, 472-2001, www.bedfordvillageinn.com) is a cozy place to spend Christmas Eve. A hearty, prix-fixe menu will be served for \$75 per plate. Entrees include roasted Christmas turkey with chestnut and apple stuffing, Atlantic salmon with braised fennel and leeks and arugula and blood orange, grilled duBret-on pork chop with a brown sugar glaze and much more. Reservations required.

• Specials, usually including great steaks, at **Buckleys** (438 Daniel Webster Hwy, Merrimack, 424-0995) will be on the docket for Christmas Eve. Special hours are 4 to 8 p.m. and reservations are highly recommended.

• The **Common Man Restaurants** (25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463, www.thecman.com) will be open on Christmas Eve for a quick lunch or brunch bite from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• Three courses or four courses? You decide at **Epoch** at the Exeter Inn (90 Front St. Exeter, 772-5901). They are holding a Christmas Eve Dinner with their traditional three-course menu and four-course menu, which includes an appetizer. Entrees include porcini crusted beef tenderloin, shellfish Newburg and grilled veal porterhouse. The three-course dinner is \$49; four-course is \$59. Reservations are required.

• **Fratello's Italian Grille** (155 Dow St., Manchester, 641-6776, www.fratellos.com)

will be open until 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve serving their regular menu and specials.

• At the **Hanover Street Chophouse** (149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, www.hanoverstreetchophouse.com), chefs will be serving lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and dinner from 4 to 8 p.m. with Christmas Eve specials.

• **The Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221) is serving a Christmas menu from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Reservations recommend.

• Christmas Eve at **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar** (212 Main St., Nashua 595-9334) will feature holiday specials in addition to their regular menu on Christmas Eve; lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 4 to 8 p.m.

• Have a merry Christmas Eve at **O Steaks and Seafood** (11 S Main St., Concord, 856-7925) with their specials. Reservations are strongly recommended.

• Although they're not open on Mondays usually, **Queen City Cupcakes** (790 Elm St., Manchester, 624-4999, www.qccupcakes.com) is opening for Christmas Eve at 11:30 p.m. until they sell out of cupcakes. Festive designs and holiday-flavored cakes will be on display, but not for long, as they tend to go fast around the holidays.

• Christmas Eve's a regular night at **Granite Restaurant and Bar** at the Centennial Hotel (96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, ext. 602, www.thecentennial-hotel.com). Check them out for some daily specials. Reservations recommended.

• **Red Sauce** (33 South Commercial St., Manchester, 232-3487 Manchester,) will open for authentic, from scratch Italian dining on Christmas Eve, but closing around 8 p.m. Reservations recommended.

• From 5:30 to 8 p.m., the **Stonehurst Manor** (3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, 356-3113, www.stonehurstmanor.com) will be serving Christmas Eve dinner.

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- The **Tilt'n Diner** (61 Laconia Road Tilton, 286-2204) will be open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. serving their breakfast and lunch fare.
- For some surf and turf on Christmas Eve, **The Yard** (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, theyardrestaurant.com) will be serving its regular menu.

Christmas Day

- Opening bright and early Christmas Day, **The Airport Diner** (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040) will provide plated Christmas specials meals in addition to their regular menu. Join them between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. for a small bite or meal with friends and family.
- It'll fill up fast, so get reservations soon for the Grand Christmas Buffet at **The Lakehouse** (281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221). From 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., enjoy a Christmas Feast of traditional holiday entrees, desserts and appetizers.

Christmas to go

Stop stressing and let the pros make your meals

By Luke Steere  
lsteere@hippopress.com

Let local pros bring edible merriment to your home this season. They're making everything from large cuts of meat to side dishes to desserts, helping make your Christmas cooking schedule a little easier.

- Feasts-to-go from **The Alpine Grove** (19 S. Depot St., Hollis, 882-9051, alpinegrove.com) come in three varieties, and each feeds up to 16 people. A 22-pound turkey with stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce is \$149; a prime rib dinner for \$199 or a roasted Virginia ham dinner for \$159 all come with mashed potatoes, carrots, squash, rolls with butter and pie. Call 882-9051 to order by Thursday, Dec. 20. Pick-up between 10 a.m. and noon Dec. 24.
- Specialty orders from **Angela's Pasta & Cheese Shop** (815 Chestnut St., Manchester, 625-9544) are being taken now. Things small, like Christmas tree butter and raspberry lemon scones; things large, like rustic bread, rosemary foccacia and salmon pies; and things sweet, like peanut butter cup cupcakes, Blue Christmas cakes and cookie platters, are all available. Monday, Dec. 17, is the order deadline.
- Pick up baked goods from **Baked** (1015 Elm St., Manchester, 606-1969) anytime before Christmas Eve, but be sure to place orders by Monday, Dec. 17.
- Need some apps? **Belmont Hall & Restaurant** (718 Grove St., Manchester, 625-8540, belmonthall.net) has stuffed mushrooms, scallops wrapped in bacon,

- Pies will be on sale and the kitchen a-roaring at the **Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118). Check out their menu for a quick bite on Christmas Eve or a full-on breakfast, lunch or dinner at any time of night on Christmas day.
- **The Stonehurst Manor** (3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, 356-3113, www.stonehurstmanor.com) Christmas Day dinner will be served from 4 to 8 p.m. and feature apps like wood oven roasted oysters and kobe beef meatballs; entrees including cider brined turkey and lamb with fresh rosemary and winter risotto; and much more. Menu available online; reservations required.
- The Christmas buffet at **Wentworth By the Sea** (588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 422-7322) runs from 11 a.m., to 5 p.m. in the Wentworth Ballroom. Beginning at 1 p.m., their four-course, prix-fixe Christmas dinner will kick off in the Grand Dining room and go until 10 p.m. Buffet and dinner are each \$44.95 per person and \$18.95 for children ages 2 to 12.

steak kabobs, shrimp cocktail and more. Two sizes of chicken tender buckets, \$40 for a bucket for 12 people and \$70 for a 15-person bucket, are also available. Pie varieties like pork, coconut cream, chocolate cream, lemon meringue, blueberry apple, pumpkin and others can round out dessert. Orders should be placed by Thursday, Dec. 20, for pick-up on Dec. 24 before 2 p.m.

- Pies and cookies and sweets are everywhere at **The Black Forest Café** (212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com). Their holiday menu features apple, cranberry apple and pecan pies, mocha chocolate layer cakes, spice cake with salted caramel frosting, old-fashioned chocolate cakes, chocolate mousse cake, carrot cake and white chocolate frangipani torte and individual lemon curd tart and German chocolate baby cake. Orders must be in by Thursday, Dec. 20, and picked up starting Dec. 22 until 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24.
- Seasonal pastries from **Bread & Chocolate** (29 S. Main St., Concord, 228-3330) are available for order by Wednesday, Dec. 19.
- Get meat and fruit pies, muffins, cakes, cookies, raisin bread and much more from **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660) must be ordered by Thurs., Dec. 20. For pick up on or before Christmas Eve.
- The **Common Man Restaurant** family is offering traditional Christmas dinners to go, which are a fully prepared, reheat-and-serve dishes of roasted turkey or ham,

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at several of their locations (25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463, thecman.com). Pick up during their hours on Christmas Eve from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Holiday dinner and bakery orders from the **Concord Community Co-op** (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840) need to be placed by Dec. 16 for pickup on New Year's Eve. Choose from all sorts of baked desserts, fully cooked dinners, fresh turkeys and more, all from scratch.

- **Crosby's** (51 East Pearl St., Nashua, 882-1851) is offering platters and smaller orders of pastries and cookies, many varieties of pies, gorton, and much more. Place orders by Dec. 22 for pick up in Christmas Eve before 5 p.m.

- Pies, rolls and more in stock as long as they last at **Crust & Crumb** (126 N. Main St., Concord, 219-0763) or call and place orders by Wednesday, Dec. 19. Pick up on Christmas Eve.

- French pastry specialties from **Finesse Pastries** (968 Elm St., Manchester, 232-6592, finessepastries.com) include apple, pie, peppermint cheesecake and chocolate crème pies from \$17.95 and, from \$22.95, dishes like chocolate and praline buche de Noel and an After Dinner Chew Chew Train of almond genoise with chocolate coating, chocolate cinnamon mousse and Bavarian crème de menthe. Orders must be in by Tuesday, Dec. 18

- **German John's** (5 West Main St., Hillsborough, 464-5079) features traditional German baked goods, like types of stollen, sweet breads shaped like a wreath or candy cane and marzipan hazelnut rings. Different types of their products need to be stored differently, so call and reserve as soon as possible. Not open Christmas Eve.

- Inspired varieties of fresh-made loaves are available at **Great Harvest Bread** (4 Sunapee St., Nashua, 881-4422) Pick-ups available or call for special ordering details.

- **Jerome's Deli** (393 Bridge St., Manchester, 623-5388; Londonderry, 425-

2840) is hooking up New Hampshire with breakfast off its Holiday Morning Menu; it's "Breakfast in Bread." A crusty loaf of sourdough with bacon, sausage and/or ham, cheese and egg that's large enough to feed six costs \$19.95. Sticky buns, pecan praline French toast, fresh fruit and other items are also available, a la carte; some food requires reheating. Jerome's requests all orders be placed by Saturday, Dec. 22, for pick-up on Monday, Dec. 24, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- Whole roasted 10- to 36-pound turkeys and fixings are being prepped at **Hart's Turkey Farm** (233 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) for Christmas. Order gravy and cranberry sauce by the pint or quart and helpings of whipped potatoes, squash, beans, beets, carrot relish chutney and stuffing. Rolls and cornbread and pies like apple, blueberry, chocolate chip, chocolate cream, mince meat and pumpkin are also available. Place orders by Saturday, Dec. 22, for pick-up on Monday, Dec. 24, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- Specialty baked goods from **Lee's** (79 Manchester St., Manchester, 206-5925) need to be placed by Wednesday, Dec. 19.

- Need holiday meats? Look no further than **The Meat House** (920 Central Avenue, Dover, 834-6328; 16 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 227-5261; 75 Portsmouth Ave., Exeter, 418-6557; 2222 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, 422-6328, themeathouse.com). A variety of butcher goods like prime rib, top sirloin, boneless and bone-in ribeyes, tenderloin and pork roast are all available for pre-order, as well as hams, Christmas geese and plenty of side dishes such as macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes and vegetables and baked goods too. Place orders by Monday, Dec. 17, for pick up between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24; some orders may be placed later, call for details.

- Christmas sweets like yule logs, tortes, red velvet cupcakes, gingerbread men and



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cranberry loaves are available in addition to the usual fare from **Michelle's Gourmet Pastries & Deli** (819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150, michellespastries.com). Mini pastry platters, cellophane-wrapped with ribbon on gold trays, include linzer bars, German chocolate bars, brownies, cannolis, eclairs, chocolate-dipped strawberries, peanut butter dream bars, petit fours and holiday cookies; \$15.99 for an 18-piece; \$37.99 for a 50-piece. Place orders by Wednesday, Dec. 19, for pick-up on Monday, Dec. 24, till 3 p.m.

• **Macaroni and cheese, done gourmet.** **Mr. Mac's** (497 Hooksett Rd., Manchester, 606-1760) take and bake option has them do all the work, just heat and serve. They'll prepare any of thier entrees to take home as a cold order, which can be stored in your refrigerator for up to five days. Fifteen minutes at 400 degrees, and the mac and cheese is ready to go. Different sizes and varieties available.

• **The Old Tyme Butcher** (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 669-0891) are offering penthouse roasts (a New York sirloin cut), prime rib, tenderloin roast and other cuts to order for the holidays along with half trays of mashed potatoes, vegetables and other sides. Also, check out their pie selection from A Slice of Heaven bakery. Orders are being taken right up until Christmas Eve (Monday, Dec. 24) as long as supplies last; pick-up is until 5 p.m. that day.

• **Try the pie at Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118, and 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222, www.redarrowdiner.com). A plethora of popular varieties like pork, salmon, chocolate, coconut and banana cream, custard, pumpkin cream, brownie cream, death by chocolate, apple, strawberry rhubarb, chocolate peanut butter, blueberry, pecan, cherry, chocolate coconut cream, lemon meringue, Boston cream and raspberry are all available for order by Saturday, Dec. 22. Walk-in pies will also be available for purchase on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

• **The Red Blazer** (72 Manchester St.,

Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) is serving a bevy of custom pies, cakes and cheesecakes in addition to traditional favorites. Nine-inch pumpkin, cherry, apple, lemon meringue, pecan and blueberry for \$19.99 and different sized dessert platters of three or four bite-sized baked goods from \$12.50 to \$60. Place orders by Saturday, Dec. 22, for pickup by 8 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24.

• **Roasts roasting over the open fire, or wherever you want to put them, from Shellie's Neighborhood Butcher Shop** (38 Crystal Ave., Derry, 505-4558, paulies-butcher.com). The shop is taking orders for holiday roasts of beef, pork, lamb and more for Christmas, and custom cuts are available at no extra charge. Also Boar's Head ham and farm fresh turkeys, tourtiere, pork and chicken pot pies and Lebanese and Armenian specialties. Thursday, Dec. 20, is the order deadline; pick-up is before 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **Queen City Cupcakes** (790 Elm St., Manchester, 624-4999, qccupcakes.com) is offering eight to 10 varieties of festive holiday cupcakes, like the Chocolate Squared with chocolate cake and chocolate buttercream frosting; the Gingerbread Egnog, which is a gingerbread cupcake with eggnog spiced buttercream frosting topped with a gingerbread cookie; and the hot cocoa milk chocolate cupcake with milk chocolate marshmallow buttercream frosting, topped with mini marshmallows and chocolate drizzle. Check out facebook.com/queencitycupcakesNH for a complete list. Place orders by Saturday, Dec. 22, for pick-up on Christmas Eve by 5 p.m.

• **Homemade pecan, blueberry, apple, chocolate cream and pecan pies** are on the menu, plus regular catering offers at **Washington Street Catering & Café** (88 Washington St., Concord, 228-2000, washingtonstreetcatering.com). Choose from appetizers to add to your own meals or ready-to-go chicken, beef or vegetarian dinners. Full menu available online; orders must be in by Thursday, Dec. 20, for pick-up on Dec. 24.

**Food Listings**  
**Winter farm stands**  
• **BROOKDALE FRUIT FARM** 38 Broad St., Hollis, 465-2240, brookdalefarms.com, closes Jan. 3  
• **GOULD HILL FARM** 656 Gould Hill Road, Contoocook, 746-3811, gouldhillfarm.com, closes Dec. 23  
• **J&F FARMS** 124 Chestre Road, Derry, 437-0535, jandffarms.net, closes end of Dec.  
• **MACK'S APPLES** 230 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 434-7619, mackapples.com, closes mid-Jan.  
• **MEADOW LEDGE FARM** 612 Route 29, Loudon, 798-5860,

meadowledgefarm.com, closes Dec. 23  
• **RED MANSE FARM** 5 Pittsfield Road, Loudon, 435-9943, redmansefarm.com, Closes in March.  
• **SCHRODER FARM** 126 Sutton Road, South Newbury 938-5911, limited Winter selection of maple syrup and wool products.  
• **TROMBLY GARDENS** 150 N. River Road, Milford, 673-0647, tromblygardens.com, Shorter winter hours.  
**Winter farmers markets**  
• **BEDFORD** CanUniquely NH Winter Market at Bedford Fields (Route 101) on the following Sat-

urdays: Jan. 12 and 26 and Feb. 9 and 23, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Contact at 472-8880 or bedfordfields.com.  
• **CANTERBURY** at Canterbury Elementary School (15 Baptist Road) through Dec. 12, 4-6:30 p.m. Visit ccfma.net or call 783-4589.  
• **CONCORD** at Cole Gardens (430 Loudon Road) on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit colegardens.com or call 229-0655.  
• **CONTOOCCOOK** 656 Gould Hill Road on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., through May. Visit harvesttomarket.com or call 508-282-0094.  
• **DERRY** Upper Village Hall (52



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## Upcoming Events

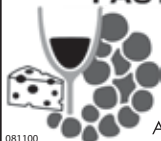
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• **EXETER** Exeter High School (315 Epping Road) on Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 16 and April 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit seacoastlocal.org.

• **GREENLAND** Rolling Green Nursery (16 Breakfast Hill Road) on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through March. Visit rollinggreen-nursery.com or call 436-2732.

• **HENNIKER** Parish Hall at Congregational Church of Henniker (5 Maple St.) on Thursdays, 4 to 6 p.m. through May 3. Visit harvesttomarket.com or call 568-1562.

• **LACONIA** Indoors at Laconia Skate Escape Roller Rink (161 Court St.) every Thursday 3 to 6 p.m., excluding holidays and school vacation weeks. Visit lacoina indoorwintermarket.weebly.com.

• **MILFORD** Milford Town Hall Auditorium (3 Middle St.) first and third Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.

• **NEW LONDON** New London Elementary School (64 Cougar Court) on Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit marketonthegreen.com or call 865-9841.

• **NEWMARKET** Carpenter's Greenhouse (220 S. Main St.) on first and third Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through April. Call 659-3391 or email newmarketfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

• **NOTTINGHAM** Nottingham Municipal Complex (139 Stage Road, Route 152) on second Sunday of each month, 1 to 4 p.m. through March. Call 679-5392 or email nottinghamfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

• **RAYMOND** Lamprey River Elementary School (33 Old Manchester Road) on the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Call 679-8656 for details.

• **ROLLINSFORD** Wentworth Greenhouses (141 Rollins Road) Dec. 22, Jan. 26, Feb. 23 and March 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit seacoastlocal.org.

• **SALEM** Lake St. Garden Center (37 Lake St.) Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through May. Visit salemnhfarmersmarket.com.

• **TILTON** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 15 Lowes Drive on Saturdays, January through March. Visit tiltonwinterfarmersmarket.com or call 496-1718.

• **WEARE** at Holy Cross Church (118 Center Road) on Fridays, 3:30 to 6 p.m. Year round. Visit wearefarmersmarket.org or call 344-2323.

• **WEARE** at Weare Town Hall (15 Flanders Memorial Road) Saturdays, Oct. through May, 4-6:30 p.m. Call 491-4203 or see harvesttomarket.com

## FREE AND HOT, COFFEE AND TEA



Two free events at A&E Coffee Roastery (135 Route 101A, Amherst, 578-3338) are coming up. Taste a variety of black teas and teas spiced to celebrate the season on Tuesday, Dec. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. Check out golden spice, chai and Finding Solace, the roastery's seasonal, hand-blended variety. Also, get a tour of how they make their coffee at a hard goods demo on Thursday, Dec. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. This is an opportunity to learn how to use the pieces of equipment and also sample coffees and teas. Space is limited at both events, so call or email customerservice@aeroastery.com to reserve your spot.

## Festivals/parties/special events

### • 12 BITES OF CHRISTMAS

Thurs., Dec. 13, 6-8 p.m. at Concord Food Co-op (24 S. Main St., Concord). Holiday-inspired appetizers from the Celery Stick Café, live music and wine tasting. Tickets and pricing at 225-6840 or concordfoodcoop.coop.

• **GINGERBREAD SPECTACULAR** Fifth annual event at Canterbury Shaker Village (288 Shaker Road Canterbury) Saturday, Dec. 15, from 3 to 8 p.m. Public viewing and judging. For more information, call 783-9077, ext. 230, or visit shakers.org.

• **NEW HORIZONS HOLIDAY BASH** Milly's Tavern (500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, 625-4444) benefit for New Horizon's Shelter. Fri., Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

• **HOLIDAY COOKIE SWAP** Share cookies and baking tips and meet new amateur bakers. Thurs., Dec. 20, 6-8 p.m. at Concord Food Co-op (24 S. Main St., Concord). Admission is free; be sure to bring a container with 24 cookies.

• **WHY DO FOOLS FALL IN LOVE?** An all-inclusive dinner theatre featuring Roger Bean's musical at The Chateau Event Center (201 Hanover St., Manchester) Feb. 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 10 at 1:30 p.m. Fri and Sat. tickets \$35; Sun. \$32. Registration required by calling 669-7469. Visit majestictheatre.net for more.

## Chef events/special meals

### • MOTHER DAUGHTER TEA

Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford) annual winter event for mothers and daughters, special menus with teas. \$34 adults, \$29 children ages 4-10. Sat., Dec. 15. Reservations 472-2001, menus and times TBA at bedfordvillageinn.com.

• **HEARTHSIDE HOLIDAY FEAST** at the Remick Country Doctor Museum and Farm (58 Cleveland Hill Road, Tamworth, 323-7591) Saturday, Dec. 15, 5-7 p.m. \$40. Locally grown food and authentic farm recipes.

• **WINTER WONDERLAND BRUNCHES** Wentworth By the Sea (588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 422-7322) brunch is held 10 a.m.-2p.m. on Sun., Dec. 16, and Sun., Dec. 23. \$39.95; \$18.95 under 12.

• **GRANITE NEW YEARS DINNER** Ring in the New Year at Granite Restaurant & Bar (96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000) Four course, prix fixe menu; \$55. Reservations required.

• **WENTWORTH NEW YEARS FEAST** before the toast, from 5-11 p.m. at Wentworth By the Sea (588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 422-7322) Five-course, prix-fixe dinner. \$59.95.

• **ALICE IN WONDERLAND DINNER** Back to back culinary trips down the rabbit hole at Stages at One Washington (1 Washington St., No. 325, Dover, 842-4077) Jan. 18 and 19 at 6:30 p.m. Call for reservations.

### • NATIONAL PANCAKE DAY

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# Part food, part funny

Cooking show strays from traditional script

By Luke Steere  
lsteere@hippopress.com



Eric Greenland

In a word, “Goofstown.”  
How else could you describe Goffstown Public Access’s *Cooking With Comedy*? Culinary arts teacher Eric Greenland’s TV gig consists of a rough script, no continuity and two guitars — not exactly the ingredients for your typical cooking show.

Greenland said *Cooking With Comedy* is a response to the typical, formulaic cooking show formats that dominate the airwaves. Since January he has been producing the show at G-TV Studios in Goffstown High School, using nothing but a one-page teleplay and a mish-mash group of performers to create an antic-filled, half-hour show he describes as his own “vision of the cooking world.” Professionally, Greenland is the high school’s culinary arts teacher, but after hours, in front of a green screen, the more fitting title might be culinary arts improviser — there’s much more of that going on than baking or cooking.

“It’s meant to be satirical. I’ve always done stand-up, and this has been a new way to develop comedy. It’s *Monty Python* meets *Letterman*, I guess,” he said.

Last week’s “Pie in the Sky” episode was his eighth show. Coming to the end of Season 1, Greenland said, the time creating a show without any prior experience has been “really cool, especially seeing yourself getting confident about doing it.”

“It’s a lot different than stand up. There is no audience, but you’ve still gotta have it together and go for it,” he said.

Though past episodes have featured live cooking, the show is much more rooted in comedy. Episodes about instructions on making a correct peanut butter and jelly sandwich, an introduction to types of pancakes and one on baking cookies incorporated singing and dancing and a whole lot of improvising.

“Mr. G,” Greenland’s on-screen alter ego, usually hits the studio once a week with a one-page script. Guest stars include fellow comedians, his friends and even students from his classes, but his sidekick Casper Cadillac, a guitar-playing everyman, is a constant presence, serving as someone to banter with and provide simple three-chord strumming beneath the din of improv.

“More often than not, things are going so quick, so it’s good to have someone who can react quickly,” Greenland said. “I’ll start jotting down ideas, but the improv flows more naturally; it comes out once I get an idea and run with it.”

Stand-up comedy has been a lifelong passion for him, he said, and Greenland

**Check it out**

*Cooking With Comedy* at:  
<http://millhousegproductions.blogspot.com>  
[www.youtube.com/user/TheMillhouseg](http://www.youtube.com/user/TheMillhouseg)

has done it on the side throughout his life, while raising his kids and working in manufacturing and, later, as a manager of a casual dining chain restaurant. Around the mid-2000s he opted for a “midlife career change” and began substitute teaching, later earning a teaching degree.

In tandem, he began amassing comedy material with Milhouse G Productions, an online platform that offered him a less political platform than live stand-up.

“You need to be in the right place at the right time. If I do a great set for only a few people, it doesn’t get you recognized, and sets in front of a big audience are few and far between,” he said.

Characters like Ricky Mapleton, Faith With an Edge, and Milhouse G have all released comedy albums, written and performed by Greenland for different audiences. His energies for those bits, however, would all be dwarfed by Mr. G.

“When I began teaching in Goffstown, I found it was important to have a sense of humor with high school kids. To be firm, have a few laughs. It loosens everybody up,” he said.

Between creating, writing and mapping the shows, Greenland said he was surprised how long editing takes. He receives help from students and G-TV volunteers.

“Public access is a great thing. It’s a great medium for people who want to try their hand at TV shows; they just are what they are,” he said.

Recently Greenland began hosting the shows on PegMedia.org, an online public TV programs board from that any station in the country can draw from. He also has an online presence on YouTube, which has given him some instant feedback, he said.

“Some of the videos are popular; one with 2,000 views is not necessarily viral, but it’s out there,” Greenland said. 🍷

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## FOOD PERISHABLES

# Pomegranates

December has, once again, crept up on this food writer. Every year, it seems I forget what month follows November and, *surprise*, it's December! For most, December is a crazy month due to holiday parties, end-of-year activities and gift shopping. Amidst all of the busyness, there is food, food and more food. From your grandmother's Christmas ham to that cheesy appetizer at your office Christmas party, December is a bona fide smorgasbord of delicious cuisine. Now, before you start feeling guilty about all the wonderful food you've been enjoying, let me introduce a healthy holiday food that can be just as festive without the guilt: pomegranates.

Pomegranates are a fruit grown all over the world but, in North America, are in season from August to December. Mostly grown in California, these fruits are so different from any other because their insides are all seeds. These seeds, called arils, are sweet, a little tart and so easy to eat (even if they aren't always easy to get to). When you do decide to break open a pomegranate, be careful because the arils are a deep red whose color was frequently used as a dye in the ancient world. I have a little pomegranate juice on an off white sweater from last year...

In addition to being an absolutely gorgeous and festive fruit for the holidays, pomegranates are now considered a superfood. According to the Pomegran-



ate Council, this fruit contains vitamin C, fiber and potassium in addition to incredibly high levels of antioxidants. The juice of the pomegranate, contained in the arils, contains high levels of polyphenols, the antioxidants used in herbal medicine since ancient times.

Given their taste, festive color and health benefits, I've created a list of my five favorite uses for pomegranate seeds this holiday season. Switch things up in a festive, healthy way with these tips. -Allison Willson Dudas 🍷

**Garnish your beverages.** Nothing says "special occasion" more than a few arils of the pomegranate floating at the bottom of a sparkly flute of champagne. This simple addition takes very little time but is sure to get noticed.

**Top your salads.** Say "goodbye" to dried cranberries and "hello" to fresh pomegranate seeds atop your salads. Adding these red fruits to a leafy green salad along with goat cheese, walnuts and apple slices will make even your most junk food-crazed friend reach for his vegetables this December. Sprinkle with a light balsamic vinaigrette and you've got the perfect blend of tart and sweet.

**Spice up your salsa.** Out with the typical, in with pomegranates! Combine fresh arils, parsley, mint, cilantro, diced tomatoes, onions and a hot pepper of your choice.

Mix together with some olive oil, lime juice and salt and pepper and you have a truly magnificent salsa. Just taste the whole way through to get the proportions to your liking. (Idea from allrecipes.com)

**Host a kids table.** Going to a family-friendly party? Bring toast topped with peanut butter and pomegranate seeds. This take on the classic PB&J will have even the adults participating. Plus, these open sandwiches are so pretty to look at.

**Drink it up.** I couldn't make this list without include an Oprah favorite: the pomegranate martini. Made with only three ingredients, this drink is beautiful in any glass and is sure to add some life to any party. Made with one part vodka, three parts pomegranate juice and half part orange liquor, just garnish with a lime wedge and thank Oprah.

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◀ 54 South River Road, Bedford; 528 South Broadway, Salem) Tues., Feb 5, 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Fundraiser for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' 30th anniversary. Visit [ihoppancakeday.com](http://ihoppancakeday.com).

• **INDULGENCE DINNER** All things guiltily pleasurable, three times over, at Stages at One Washington (1 Washington St., No. 325, Dover, 842-4077) Feb. 14, 15 and 16 at 6:30 p.m. Call for reservations.

### Weekly Special Meals

• **CONCORD FOOD CO-OP BRUNCH** The Co-op's Celery Stick Café (24 S. Main St. in Concord, 410-3099, [concordfoodcoop.coop](http://concordfoodcoop.coop)) offers a brunch buffet every Sun., 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Build-your-own omelet station.

• **ALL YOU SHOULD EAT FARM FEAST BREAKFAST** D Acres (218 Streeter Woods Road,

Dorchester) hosts a breakfast on the first Sunday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Local breakfast food including pancakes with maple syrup, eggs, meat, potatoes, and greens; fair-trade coffee. Guided tours, open woodland trails following meal. No pets allowed. \$5 to \$15 suggested donation. Call 786-2366 or visit [daces.org](http://daces.org).

• **FROM OUR TAVOLA TO YOURS** is held on the first Mon-



# Perfect party dip

In the hectic time of reunions, parties and potlucks before the holidays, it's easy to turn to a store-bought snack as your offering to the table. But I've found that this recipe, stolen from my mom's recipe book, is a crowd favorite and amazingly simple to whip together at the last minute. The rich flavors and creamy texture make this ambrosial dip fit for the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

The idea of "dip" as we know it today didn't surface until the 1950s. In cookbooks before that time you'll be hard pressed to find any mention of the sumptuous treats, but you may stumble upon recipes that hint of the culinary creations to come. In Fannie Farmer's Boston Cooking-School Cookbook from 1947, there are cocktail spreads suggested for use with canapés or hors d'oeuvres made with crackers. While we had dip predecessors before the mid-century, the Oxford English Dictionary states the earliest appearance of the word in print (in the sense of a tasty snack) didn't appear until 1960 in James Kirkwood's book *There Must be a Pony!*

There was a shift in popular culture between the late 1940s and early 1960s that took our definition of the word "dip" from unknown to commonplace. According to an article by Professor Gary Allen of Empire State College, three distinct things happened: the potato chip, Lipton Company, and television. As potato chips, "invented" in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in the 1850s, became more popular, they were introduced in the deep south by a traveling sales man by the name of Herman Lay. His now-famous last name appeared on bags of potato chips around the country by 1944. Around the same time Elmer Doolin was growing his snack food business, better known as "Fritos," and offering franchise opportunities. Herman Lay's company bought the first franchise, and in 1961 the two companies merged to form Frito-Lay. Other food companies soon took note of the mass marketing and mass production that made the Frito-Lay company successful.

The Lipton Company, by the early '50s, had run out of ways to market its instant soup. So as a new use for the product, the company experimented with a campaign teaching people to combine dried soup mix with sour cream – and the dip was born.



Quick and easy, this cheese dip will be the hit of your holiday party. Lauren Mifsud photo

### Ham and Cheese Dip

- 1 8-ounce pkg. cream cheese
- 2 cups cheddar cheese
- 1-1½ cups cubed ham

In a bowl mix softened cream cheese, 1½ cups cheddar cheese and ham cubes. Stir to combine. Spread in an 8-inch round pan and top with remaining cheddar cheese. Bake on 350 degrees for approximately 20 minutes, or until cheese is melted. Serve with chips or crackers for dipping.

But what really kicked the popularity of chips and dip into overdrive was the advent of the television. Americans were looking for quick, easy meals and snacks to enjoy with the family around the hub of entertainment. Finger foods quickly grew in popularity, especially ones that required no utensils – chips and dip.

While this recipe doesn't call for any Lipton soup or sour cream, it does include some classic American items: cream cheese, cheddar cheese and ham. The flavor from this dip is delectable. The richness of the cream cheese, the salty cheddar and the smoky ham in every bite make this dip hard to resist. It's almost like the creamiest bite of a twice-baked potato with all of the traditional toppings in every scoop. Serve this dip with chips or crackers and maybe double the recipe – it's going to be a hit at your next party. – *Lauren Mifsud* 🍷

day of every month at Lucia's Tavola, 181 Route 13, Brookline, 429-9134, [luciastavola.com](http://luciastavola.com). The event begins at 5 p.m. with a wine and cocktail tasting reception. At 6 p.m., Chef Mark DiCicco will prepare a four-course meal in front of the diners. Dinner costs \$35 and reservations are recommended.

• **LEBANESE DINNER** Wash-

ington St. Catering, 88 Washington St., Concord, 228-2000, [washingtonst.catering.com](http://washingtonst.catering.com), has a five-course Lebanese dinner every Friday, 5 to 9 p.m. The dinner costs \$23.95 per person; reservations recommended.

### Upcoming food classes

• **TOTAL VEGAN GOURMET**

Mon., Dec. 17, 6-9 p.m. at Concord High School (170 Warrent St., Concord) Turning regular food into a vegan dish. \$34, pre-registration is required by calling 225-0804 or visit [classesforlife.com](http://classesforlife.com).

• **KITCHEN ON A MISSION**  
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## FOOD

### Weekly Dish

Continued from page 48

by a cooking demo of two recipes. With a focus on technique, ingredient information, serving styles and storage tips, students can choose from cooking and gardening with herbs or flowers; cooking with chocolate, tea or coffee; feasts that are 10 minutes to make or on a budget; and many more. Barbour will tailor special programs as well. Sign up online or email [info@thecreativefeast.com](mailto:info@thecreativefeast.com) with questions.

• **Who Wears a Suit That's Big and Red?** Santa does, and so does the Red Blazer (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101), so they make for a perfect match. He's visiting their Sunday Breakfast Buffets on Dec. 16 and Dec. 23. Check out the spread from 9 a.m. to noon, featuring hash, eggs, baked beans, fruits, breads and toasts, sausage, biscuits and gravy and the Blazer's famous egg lasagna. Made-to-order items include Belgian waffles and custom omelets and pancakes filled with blueberries, Reese's Pieces, chocolate chips, strawberries and whatever else you want for Christmas. Buffet is \$10.99, excluding beverages, \$6.99 for children 10 and under and free for children 3 and under.

• **Christmas Like Italians Do:** Pasquale's Ristorante (143 Raymond Rd., Candia, 483-5005) is holding La Fiesta Dei Sette Peci, better known as the Feast Of The Seven Fishes on Sunday, Dec. 23, at 1 p.m. The Feast is one of Italy's traditional and most enjoyable festivities, at which families and friends gather for a massive dinner of several courses of seafood. The event is \$60 per person, RSVP by Dec. 20.

• **The Noel Luncheon:** To celebrate the holidays, MT's Local Kitchen and Wine Bar (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334) will be open for lunch every day except Sundays until Christmas Eve starting at 11 a.m. Take the office out for a meal or

have a shopping break over local foods, including seafood starters and entrees, wood grilled pizzas and sandwiches.

• **Trombly Gardens Hibernating, Almost:** They may be in out of the cold, but Trombly Gardens (150 No. River Road, Milford, 673-0647) is reflecting on this season and planning for next; their new greenhouse is nearly complete and will be used to grow winter greens and, come spring, hot house tomatoes. Trombly is still keeping up with the holidays with some winter items for gifts and feasts, such as their You Choose CSA program, which, if you join before Dec. 31, can come with a 15 percent holiday bonus on the membership card. For example, join for \$300 and receive \$345 worth of credit towards the program. Visit [tromblygardens.com](http://tromblygardens.com) for additional CSA details and to register. Meat and dairy food items, like their country style pork ribs and spicy pineapple sauce, gift baskets and gift cards are also available at the farm stand.

• **New Republic:** Republic (1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723) has made some changes to the menu. New mezze items include mussels provencal with fresh tomato and shaved fennel, garlic and dill; Spanish meatballs with almond sauce; small planet polpetti; and red lentil cake with frisee and lemon caper remoulade. Stop in or check it out online at [Republiccafe.com](http://Republiccafe.com). On YouTube, you'll find video of Republic owners Ed Aloise and Claudia Rippee at last October's TEDx Talk discussing their restaurant concept.

• **New Saffron:** It's closed Thursday, Dec. 13, for a private function, but Saffron Bistro (80 Main St., Nashua, 883-2100) does have a new holiday dessert menu. Check out flourless chocolate cake with hints of coffee and raspberry, gingerbread cheesecake with gingersnap crust and caramel, apple cider sorbet and more.

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Cook begins on Jan. 7 and runs Mon., 6:30-8 p.m. until March 11. Hosts and guest speakers will speak on antioxidant, anti-cancer, mood-boosting, light, sustainable, vegetarian, flexitarian, and mostly gluten-free fare. Menu planning, inspiration-based cooking, healthy drinks, earthly roots, powering up salads and much more. Holiday Inn (172 North Main St., Concord); \$40, registration and nonrefundable payment required, call 225-6840 or visit [concordfoodcoop.coop](http://concordfoodcoop.coop).

• **GREAT SIMPLE MEALS** Bedford Community Education (Bedford High School, 103 County Road, Bedford, 472-3755) is holding a six week class on on Thursdays starting

Thurs., Jan 10, 6-9 p.m. Recommended for kitchen newbies and folks looking to brush up cooking skills. Knife skills, classic cooking techniques by preparing simple, delicious meals and, naturally, enjoying those meals. \$144 registrations plus one-time \$60 material fee payable to instructor. Visit [sau25.net](http://sau25.net) and click on Community Enrichment Program under Quick Links.

• **THEMED COOKING CLASSES** Two nights of themed cooking classes at Stages at One Washington (1 Washington St., No. 325, Dover, 842-4077). Check out Alice in Wonderland on Cooking classes on Jan. 10 and 24 and Indulgence themed classes on Feb. 7 and 21;

all four run 6:30-8:30 p.m. Classes correspond with dinners and are \$100 or \$175 for the set of two, \$25 discount for booking at the dinner.

### Regular Classes

• **A MARKET** The Manchester natural foods store's education center offers classes and workshops on health and nutrition. See [amarket-naturalfoods.com](http://amarket-naturalfoods.com).

• **BEDFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION** Classes offered out of Bedford High School (103 County Road, Bedford, 472-3755). For more information, contact Susan Sambrano at [sambranos@sau25.net](mailto:sambranos@sau25.net) or phone 310-9000, ext. 3127. Visit [sau25.net](http://sau25.net) and click on



# Painted sugar cookies

The iconic Christmas treat is a thin, buttery sugar cookie shaped like a tree (or stocking or Santa Claus) and elaborately decorated with meticulous swirls of colored icing. Beautiful? Yes. Tasty? Sometimes. A simple project to execute in the middle of the busy holiday season? Uh, no.

When I was a small child, my mother solved the problem by keeping the festive cookie shapes but simplifying the decorating process. Instead of fussy royal icing and precise pastry tips, she broke out the food coloring and paintbrushes and let me decorate the unbaked cookies with, essentially, an edible paint.

I was very fond of this colorful and slightly messy method of decorating. A budding recipe developer even then, I insisted upon writing up a recipe card outlining the technique for inclusion in my mother's recipe box.

I titled my recipe "Christmas Cuts" and it read as follows: "Make sugar cookies, put eating paint on it, bake for 40 minutes."

Today, I would add the following information, modifications and advice. For one, do not, under any circumstances, bake for 40 minutes.



Just about any sugar cookie base will work for this style of decorating. Heck, grab a roll of premade dough at the supermarket and paint away. But if you want to bake from scratch, try this recipe, gleaned from Real Simple online. While many cut-out cookie recipes are dry and bland, this one yields delicious buttery cookies.

For the "paint," I strongly suggest using gel food coloring. It is available at most cooking supply and craft stores, and just a tiny bit creates unbeatably vivid colors.

The cookies do not have the elegant perfection that the very talented can achieve with royal icing, but I prefer the playful, simple look this approach creates. Enjoy.

— Sarah Shemkus

## Christmas Cuts

Recipe by Real Simple and me.

2½ cups flour, plus more for shaping the cookies

¼ teaspoon baking soda

¼ teaspoon kosher salt

1 cup unsalted butter, room temperature

¾ cup sugar

1 large egg

1 teaspoon vanilla

Egg yolks

Food coloring

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.

Using an electric mixer, beat the butter and sugar until smooth. Add the egg and beat until fluffy, about two minutes. Beat in the

vanilla. With the mixer on low, gradually add the flour mixture, mixing until just incorporated. Shape into a disk and refrigerate, wrapped, for at least one hour and up to three days.

When ready to make cookies, heat oven to 350 degrees. If needed, let dough warm up a bit for easier rolling. On a floured surface, roll out dough ¼ inch thick. Cut into shapes and place on parchment-lined baking sheets; refrigerate until firm.

In small individual bowls mix one egg yolk per desired color with a small amount of food coloring. Use clean artist brushes to paint cookies.

Bake until just beginning to brown, 10 to 13 minutes.

Community Enrichment Program under Quick Links.

• **CHEZ BOUCHER COOKING SCHOOL** One-day workshops, mini-sessions, international cooking, cooking with friends, team-building, classes for kids, and more. Chez Boucher (32 Depot Square, Hampton, 926-2202) can be found online at [chezboucher.com](http://chezboucher.com).

• **CREATIVE FEAST CLASSES** Liz Barbour's Creative Feast, [thecreativefeast.com](http://thecreativefeast.com), has classes and demonstrations. Email [lizb@thecreativefeast.com](mailto:lizb@thecreativefeast.com) or go online to register.

• **CO-OP CLASSES** The Concord Cooperative Market (24 S. Main St. in Concord, 225-6840, [concordfoodcoop.coop](http://concordfoodcoop.coop)), holds regular series on wellness, green living and

cooking. Even free classes require registration. Visit [concordfoodcoop.coop](http://concordfoodcoop.coop) for schedule. Interested teachers can contact the Co-op Wellness Coordinator, Maria Noël Groves at 410-3099.

• **FRESH FLAVORS** Every first Saturday, free cooking demonstrations at Fresh Market (79 S River Road, Bedford, 626-3420) showcase local chefs making meals in minutes. Visit [thefreshmarket.com](http://thefreshmarket.com) for the cooking demo and date each month.

• **FREDERICK'S PASTRIES** One-time classes for kids and adults in cake decoration and design. Frederick's Pastries (109 Route 101A, Amherst, 882-7725) offers demonstrations regularly or by appointment. Check [pastry.net](http://pastry.net) or call to

schedule.

• **FARM FOOD, GARDEN TO TABLE** Chefs at Moulton Farm (18 Quarry Road, Meredith, 279-3915) hold regular workshops, demonstrations, and events on preparing healthy dishes using farm-raised ingredients. Some classes have fees. Check [moultonfarm.com](http://moultonfarm.com); call the farm or email [robbmoultonfarm@metrocast.com](mailto:robbmoultonfarm@metrocast.com) for details and reservations.

• **HANNAFORD SUPERMARKETS** offer free classes on stretching your food budget, healthy cooking, time-saving meals and more. See [hannaford.com](http://hannaford.com) and click on "news & events" for classes at the Hannaford near you.



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## DRINK

# Wine lovers' wish lists

Local store owners offer gift-giving advice

By Stefanie Phillips  
listings@hippopress.com

If you have wine lovers on your shopping list, there are a lot of great options available. I asked local store owners to offer suggestions for anyone looking to give wine as a gift.

## Purchasing Guidelines

Wine shop employees are ready to guide customers, helping answer vague questions like, "What's a good wine to give as a gift?"

"We actually get these questions multiple times every day of the year, so my staff is well-versed on how to approach this situation," said Maureen Adams of The Wine Studio ([www.thewinestudio.com](http://www.thewinestudio.com)) in Manchester.

Steve Smith, co-owner of Dover Wine ([www.doverwine.com](http://www.doverwine.com)), echoed the sentiment and said his employees ask a series of questions to determine which wine might be a good fit for the recipient.

Here are some questions to keep in mind that staff might ask:

1. Is the receiver a wine person?
2. Does he or she like red or white wine, or something else that you know of?
3. What is your budget?
4. Is the receiver male or female? Dover Wine likes to ask this question, as this can also help guide a gift.

## General Wine Gifts

Sometimes you might not know what a person likes – if you are going to a holiday dinner party, for example. But if you know the that person likes wine in general, staff might suggest a less common wine.

"Often, if the receiver is a wine person, we will try to pinpoint a wine they haven't tried to give them a new experience," Smith said. "It also helps the giver feel as if their gift isn't going to be compared to the other 50 Napa Valley Cabernets they have in their cellar."

Adams tries to stock wines not typically carried in grocery and liquor stores, but if a customer knows a specific wine or brand that their giftee typically drinks, it gives employees a flavor profile to work with.

Dan Villafranca at Vino Aromas ([www.vino-aromas.com](http://www.vino-aromas.com)) in Manchester has some suggestions for customers who may not know what their receiver drinks.

"If they don't know, I steer them toward an ice wine and tell them drizzle it over ice cream, cheesecake or fruit. Candia Vineyards' Ice Wine is great for this purpose."

The staff at Angela's Pasta and Cheese Shop in Manchester ([www.angelaspasta-andcheese.com](http://www.angelaspasta-andcheese.com)) samples all of the wines

in the store, so they can personally recommend them, along with a compatible cheese pairing.

"We try to zero in on what they like or are looking for," said Bob 'Butch' Falcioni. "Currently, we have at least 16 wines under \$10, but we have higher-end wines too. We welcome the opportunity to help a customer pick just the right wine."

The staff can also help you pair the perfect cheese with one of their wines, or put the bottle in a pretty wine bottle wrap.

Vintner's Cellar Winery in Concord ([vcwinenh.com](http://vcwinenh.com)) is offering a 12 Days of Christmas series, which includes pear riesling, carmenere, pomegranate cab-merlot, blueberry shiraz and viognier. They are also carrying three wines with a portion of the proceeds going to the Concord-Merrimack SPCA (\$16): a chardonnay-style white, a sweet red and a drier red.

## Red & White Wine

Vino Aromas has been selling out of the band Train's wine, Drops of Jupiter, which Villafranca describes as "jammy and delicate." Samples are available at the wine bar. For a white, Villafranca recommends Snogualmine Riesling, with slight minerality and notes of green apple and pear.

For anyone looking for a local gift, Adams offers Flag Hill North River Port (\$28), which is in a beautiful, squat Italian bottle with a wax seal and looks a lot more expensive than its price point. Another suggestion is Old Nutfield of Chesters' Clementine dessert wine (\$16).

## Other Gifts

Many of these locations, in addition to Butter's Fine Food and Wine in Concord ([www.buttersfinefood.com](http://www.buttersfinefood.com)) and WineNot Boutique in Nashua ([www.winenotboutique.com](http://www.winenotboutique.com)), offer custom gift baskets. Choose an assortment of items for any wine lover and the staff will happily assemble them in a nice basket.

WineNot Boutique and Dover Wine both offer wine education classes (starting at \$25), which would make a great gift for anyone, from beginners to more seasoned wine lover.

In addition to these ideas, every wine lover likes accessories to enjoy with their wine, including wine glasses, stoppers or charms. The Wine Studio has engraved wine bottles with holiday messages, and Dover Wine carries Schott-Zweisel titanium crystal glassware.

When all else fails, purchase a gift card to a wine shop and let the wine lover in your life pick their own. 🍷

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## DRINK

# Red, white and green

A lot of wine, a little cash

This week we tried two reds that are great stocking stuffers.

Our first wine was a **2010 Dreaming Tree "Crush" Red Wine** North Coast (\$12.99). This red wine is from the north coast of California, a catch-all phrase for grapes from Sonoma, Lake, Napa and Mendocino counties. The color was a dark ruby red and on the nose we got lots of dried fruit. This is a fruit forward wine and is quite lovely on its own. We found this to be a very approachable wine with fruit upfront and then balanced with some acid on the back. One reviewer called it "light and bright." Though we didn't try it with any food, we thought it would go well with pork or barbecue chicken or ribs.

Our second wine was a **2009 Weekday Warrior Red Wine** from Wilson Winery from Mendocino County in California (\$14.99). They made less than 400 cases -- that's just a tad over 4,000 bottles for the entire country. The color was a dark purple, almost plummy. For a nose we found fruit and some earthiness. For flavors, we stood back and agreed: "it's big, big, big." It's definitely a dry red wine, but it has a lot of deep intense dried fruit up front with



a nice amount of tannins to keep the wine from being too fruity. Although, like the bottle above, we didn't try this with food, we guessed it would go well with a big dish like tomatoes and garlic. Well worth \$15 to try something that so few will ever get to try because of its small production.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," the wine-lovers taste red

and white wines that sell for not too much of the green, less than \$20. The goal? To find a good bottle without breaking the bank. Unless otherwise noted, the prices listed are what you'll find the bottles selling for at the New Hampshire Wine & Liquor Outlet. 🍷

### Drink Listings

#### Breweries/Distilleries

- **ANHEUSER-BUSCH** 221 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 595-1202, budweisertours.com. Open daily for tours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **BLUE LOBSTER BREWING COMPANY** 845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6062, facebook.com/BlueLobsterBrew. Tasting room and tours Thurs. 4 to 6 p.m.; Fri, 5 to 7 p.m.
- **CANDIA ROAD BREWING CO.** 840 Candia Road, Manchester, 935-8123. Contact to schedule a visit.
- **ELM CITY BREWING CO.** Colony Mill Marketplace, 222 West St., Keene, 355-3335, elm-citybrewing.com. Restaurant, brewery and pub open Mon. through Thurs., 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 11:30 a.m. to midnight; Sun., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **EARTH EAGLE BREWING CO.** 165 High St., Portsmouth, 767-8235, facebook.com/earthaglebrewings. Tasting Room open Thurs. and Fri, 3 to 7 p.m., Sat. and Sun., noon to 4 p.m.
- **THE FLYING GOOSE BREW PUB & GRILLE** 40 Andover Road in New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com. Lunch and dinner Mon. through Sat., 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call to schedule tour.
- **GREAT RHYTHM BREWING CO.** Portsmouth, 300-8588, greatrhythmbrewing.com.
- **INCREDIBREW** 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com. Personal brewery and winery holding regular brewing sessions.
- **ITALIAN OASIS RESTAURANT & BREWERY** 106 Main St., Littleton, 444-6995, italianoasis.com. Lunch and dinner Mon. through Sat., 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **MARTHA'S EXCHANGE RESTAURANT & BREWING CO.** 185 Main St. in Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com. Bar open Sun. through Wed. 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Thurs. through Sat., 11 to 1 a.m. Tours by appointment.
- **MILLY'S TAVERN** 500 Commercial St. in Manchester, 625-4444, millystavern.com. Lunch and dinner Mon. through Sat. 11 to 1 a.m., brewery tours available if brewery staff are available. Email petertelge@millystavern.com to schedule.
- **MOAT MOUNTAIN SMOKEHOUSE AND BREWING CO.** 3378 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, 356-6381, moatmountain.com. Restaurant open Mon. through Sun., 11:30 to 12 a.m.
- **THE PORTSMOUTH BREWERY** 56 Market St., Portsmouth, portsmouthbrewery.com, 431-1115. Open seven days a week, 11:30 to 12:30 a.m., kitchen open until 11 a.m. on weeknights. Brewery tours offered at 3 p.m. on Thurs., Fri

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- **REDHOOK BREWERY** 35 Corporate Drive, Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth, 430-8600, redhook.com. Tours hourly Mon. 3 to 5 p.m., Tues. 12 to 2 p.m., Wed., Thurs. and Sun., 1 to 5 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 12 to 6 p.m.; Cataqua Public House open Mon. through Thurs., 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sun., 12 to 8 p.m.
- **SEBAGO BREWING CO.** 67 Portland Road, Kennebunk, Maine, 207-856-2537. Tours and tastings Mon. through Fri at 2 p.m.; pub open Mon. through Sun. 11 to 1 a.m.
- **SEVEN BARREL BREWERY** 5 Airport Road, West Lebanon, 298-5566, 7barrell.com. Tavern open daily 11 to 1 a.m. Call for tours.
- **SMUTTYNOSE** 225 Heritage Ave., Portsmouth, 436-4026, smuttynose.com. Tours and tastings offered on Fri. at 5:30 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Private or large group tours available by request.
- **THROWBACK BREWERY** 121 Lafayette Road Unit 3, North Hampton, 379-2317, throwback-brewery.com. Visits on Thurs. and Fri., 4 to 7 p.m.; Sat., 1 to 4 p.m.
- **TUCKERMAN BREWING CO.** 64 Hobbs St., Conway, 447-5400, tuckermanbrewing.com. Tours kick off every Sat. at 3 p.m.

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# POP CULTURE GIFT GUIDE

MUSIC, BOOKS, GAMES, COMICS, MOVIES, DVDS, TV AND MORE

## The Nerdmare Before Dorksmas

Ten gifts to turn a boring old Wookiee Life Day into a Klingon QI'lop!

By Glenn Given  
ggiven@hippopress.com

If you still need to be convinced that geek culture has hit the mainstream, you're living in a sealed-off Batcave. The highest-grossing films (*The Avengers* and *The Dark Knight Rises*) and top comedies like *Big Bang Theory* are deeply geeky. Target shelves are stocked with euro-style board games like *Settlers of Catan*, and the video game industry is set to make 67 billion nerdy dollars this year. Now, I don't expect all of you to be listening to chip-tunes, using a Makerbot to custom craft miniatures, or rocking a sweet pixel art tattoo, but you've got holiday obligations, so don't embarrass yourself. Crank this festive season to 1.21 gigawatts with these sure-fire geeky gifts for under the tree, menorah, kinara or undecorated aluminum pole.

### 1. A Vintage NES and a ton of games (\$100)

Local game shops like Level Up Gaming (levelupnh.com) can set you up with a vintage '80s or '90s gaming console and a bucket of games for less than a bare-bones Wii U. The current crop of consoles are growing long in the tooth, and the next generation heralded by the Wii U lacks the innovation of Nintendo's former outing and the sheer horsepower of the Playstation 3. You're better off playing the nostalgia card for older geeks or showing your old-school cred to a young nerd. Give them a taste of an age when infinite continues were only a myth.

### 2. A hat that says "w00t" (\$15)

Popular geek exclamation of triumph custom embroidered on a fitted cap by a local artisan? Yes please. From etsy.com/shop/threadfed. Psst, they also make one that says "1337 633K" which ain't too shabby as far as geek slang goes.

### 3. Verily, a mighty flagon of mead!

Purchase a silver or gold plated flagon fit for the king of kings from the FC Ziegler Catholic Church supply company, or nab a more affordable stein from your local brewpub or beer shop. Fill it to ye brim with the booze of yon champions, fermented honey-wine from the fine folks at

Moonlight Meadery (moonlightmeadery.com).

### 4. Custom cosplay attire (\$500-\$1,000)

You might not be aware, but New Hampshire has an oddly active cosplay (costume play) community. Nab your favorite dorklings old issues of *Shonen Jump* or a superhero rag and take it to Costumes of Nashua (costumesofnashua.com/) or Derry's The Costume Gallery (www.thecostumegallery.com/). Shake a fist full of cash in their face while pointing at an insanely frocked cartoon character. Your geek won't know what to think of your oddly insightful gift.

### 5. The Hulk (\$15,000 minimum bid)

What's green, enormous and emitting deadly radiation into your living room? It's probably your genetically modified Christmas tree. But on the off chance that your douglas fir isn't slowly cancer-ating you, why not make space in your family for a life-size statue of the Incredible Hulk? Bruce Banner's alter ego fits perfectly into your foyer, conservatory or billiard room for the minimum pittance bid of \$15,000 through Harrison's Comics (978-741-0786). What better way to ensure that your son or daughter never has a repeat visitor to the house?

### 6. A Magnavox Odyssey (\$75 to \$2,200 based on model year)

Listen, unless you're gonna build a functional PDP-1 to properly run *Spacewar!*, the Magnavox Odyssey is the closest you can realistically get to the black obelisk of video gaming. The 1972 Odyssey is rare, but a healthy trade of the '75 Odyssey 100s and its descendants are available online. While you're at it, grab a copy of Odyessy and NH inventor Ralph Baer's *Video Game's: In The Beginning* (rolentapress.com/).

### 7. A print of a petite magical horse

Portsmouth illustrator Sara Richard (www.sararichard.com) does a brisk trade in magical horse friend pictures and various scribbles in the comic industry. Commissioning any work of art is a tricky gift prospect, but comic nerds are a bit of an easy mark for composition matter. Sneak a peek at their coffee table sprawl of fun-

ny-books and memorize even a single title. Most competent illustrators should be able to create a character inspired by your title selection.

### 8. *Fiasco* (\$25)

I can't recommend this role-playing experience enough. Last time I played *Fiasco* I was a one-legged Native American princess who was embroiled in the illegal manufacture of drugs using run-off railroad labor in the Wild, Wild West; it got more ridiculous from there. Each player is a junction in a web of dysfunctional schemes and relationships, and the game ties the fate of all the players together in a wonderfully Coen brothers manner. Sure, it's not New Hampshire native, but I live here, and I love it, and so should you. Visit [bullypulpitgames.com/store](http://bullypulpitgames.com/store).

### 9. A Ghostlight Theatre corporate sponsorship (\$500)

You get a swag bag from New Hampshire's quirkiest theater troupe, a full page ad in every program, two season passes to whatever fever dreams they manifest (past award winning outings include, *Zombies!*, *Titus Andronicus* and *subUrbia*), as well as a personal promotion before every show. That is a level of ego stroking and inclusion from a clutch of talented performers that simply cannot be matched for the money. Shoot Ghostlight a message at [ghostlightne@gmail.com](mailto:ghostlightne@gmail.com) for info on their sponsorship packages.

### 10. Rusty wind up toys from yesteryear, especially tin robots

Old is the new new. Classic toys from the Rockwell days of Americana complete the look of any working geek's desk. Get yourself a vintage ray gun, a tiny Forbidden Planet Robby the Robot, and a creepy cymbal-clapping monkey to top off a geeky gift basket. Match these toys up with some bargain bin DVDs of classic sci-fi, pulp or horror flicks and a box of Sno-Caps or Raisinets for a punch to the ol' geek nostalgia-plexus. Get in touch with a local antiques shop, like From Out of The Woods Antiques (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com), and you should be able to find a cool old toy or two with little effort. 🍷

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MOONLIGHT BRIDE,  
DEAD LANGUAGE  
(SELF-RELEASED)



Chattanooga indie-gloom foursome Moonlight Bride offer their second EP here, perhaps hoping to define

themselves (or maybe not) prior to their first album, slated for next year. If you've ever heard Warlocks, you've experienced this band's core sound, or at least the basic gist — Moonlight Bride sounds like Warlocks after getting dumped by particularly intolerable girlfriends and forcing themselves to listen to Nick Drake nonstop for a month. Translated into non-nerd, what I'm saying is that there's a lot of Cocteau Twins reverb — actually, a lot of Cocteau Twins, period; some quirky, barely conscious Bon Iver chill, and anything else you could think of that would make them no more remarkable than Sleep Whale. "It Could Happen" erupts into violently sloshy shoegaze mayhem, too little too late.

Grade: B- — Eric W. Saeger

PALOMA FAITH,  
FALL TO GRACE  
(RCA RECORDS)



British actress/singer Faith is a work in progress, capable of karaoke-ing Joss Stone, Kate Havnevik and Gwen Stefani at will

and not yet fully formed as to her own style. In the ballad "Just Be" she adds a Nelly Furtado angle to her inflections, and opener "Picking Up the Pieces" suggests an Adele rock-out, and that's nice. But the direction of the LP is fuzzily focused, resulting in a few issues: obvious Joss Stone-competitor "Beauty of the End" will be thought a misstep by some ears, since it could be argued that her screamy yodeling sounds off-key (it isn't), but my only real quibble is with "Agony," which, first of all, shouldn't have come after "When You're Gone," since that's two seriously bummers in a row, but the real problem is the hook, a dumb-brained ripoff of Killers' "Mr. Brightside." The filler is decent, such as "Blood Sweat & Tears"'s horse-gallop dance beat.

Grade: B+ — Eric W. Saeger

PLAYLIST

A Seriously Abridged Compendium of Recent and Future CD Releases

- **T.I.** releases his eighth studio LP next week, *Trouble Man: Heavy is the Head*. The beat on "Go Get It" is swirly and ghostly-whiny, definitely cooler than the sub-reggae-ton club-banger Lil Wayne guests on (kickoff single "Ball"), not that that one's all that horrible, aside from the obvious microwaving of every other song you hear in your rebellious hiphop clubs these days. But at least it's a new album, right? What kind of nut would release an album exactly one week before Christmas, aside from a commercial rapper or a metal band, or something even more loathsome, like Creed?
- OK, Creed doesn't have a new album coming out next week. And not every band from Tallahassee is a gigantic fail like Creed, or at least **Go Radio** isn't. When they finally, finally released their new LP *Close the Distance* in September, it was like, "hey this isn't bad at all, even though there's a definite Maroon 5 influence to it, so let's just ignore that part and enjoy the Creedence-style singing, yes, let's." But it's the week before Christmas, so we are only talking about a vinyl version, not a new LP. And now, through this crackerjack burst of journalism, you know that if you liked the new Go Radio album, you can get it on vinyl, because you enjoy hoarding.
- The rest is just a bunch of random crazy oldschool rock-star collections put together at the last minute by the record companies that figured you had to have one last hundred dollars on your state-issued unemployment Mastercard, so why not? Hey, Aunt Emily is serious about bad music; maybe she'd want this new **Whitney Houston** collection, *We Will Always Love You: A Grammy Salute to Whitney Houston*! At only \$14 for some of the most mawkish, ridiculous, ego-centric love balladry since, well, ever, you'll at least finally have some money left over to chip in for rent, for once, good lord can't you just help out a little?
- Or maybe your Uncle Dave, whom you suspect likes him a little of the "kind bud," he's so cool! Maybe he'd like the new, and I quote: *2112 CD + Audio Blu-Ray SUPER Deluxe Edition*, by **Rush**! But don't, you're better off buying Rush's original *Hemispheres* album, because it was totally conceptual ... no, just skip over "The Trees," that was a stupid song. No, better yet, get the *Farewell To Kings* album and crank it in the parking lot of the 7-11, to experience the life your parents were living when you were conceived, a zygote made of carbon and future broken dreams. — Eric W. Saeger



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## POP CULTURE BOOKS

# The last of its kind

French bookstore in Manchester the last in N.E.

By Kelly Sennott  
ksennott@hippopress.com

You have to pay attention to find the tiny bookshop tucked away on Orange Street.

La Librairie Populaire is a hidden gem for French language speakers, and according to Manchester Franco American Richard Fortin, the last French language bookshop in New England. It's so hidden, in fact, that many Franco Americans in New Hampshire might not know about this French book, music and card shop under Elm Grove Apartments.

Owner Roger Lacerte is a "Lowell boy," but as a fourth generation Franco American, he grew up speaking the French language. His business started small, beginning with a small bookcase in his living room. He ordered big shipments to his Massachusetts home, he said, simply for himself and for his friends and family. But he found more and more demand for French music and literature, so he started the business.

His shop holds books of all kinds: children's books, encyclopedias, philosophy books, religious books, books on Franco American culture in New Hampshire, and books by Lowell-born writer Jack Kerouac. Walk around and you'll find new books, secondhand books, music CDs and greeting cards kept in plastic covers to preserve freshness. But what most visitors will find most valuable is the conversation: when you enter, you're greeted in French. Many visitors who enter enjoy this, Lacerte said.

"It makes guys like me practice our French," Fortin said.

There are some shops, like Barnes & Noble, that have French language sections, and there's Cambridge's foreign bookstore, Schoenhof's Foreign Books, Lacerte explained, but there are no more French specialty bookstores like these anymore in the area. Incidentally, he has a good relationship with Barnes & Noble in Manchester, he noted; whenever they don't have what customers want in their French section, they'll refer the customers to him.

It wasn't always the case that French items, French stores and French culture were rare in New England. There were bookstores in Lawrence and in Nashua, Fortin said, but over time, they died away with lack of demand. Franco Americans assimilated to American culture after World War II, and most people began to speak English at this time, Fortin explained. But people who don't know about this bookstore, Franco Americans in



A sampling of books at La Librairie Populaire. Photo by Kelly Sennott.

## La Librairie Populaire

18 Orange St., Manchester, 669-3788

particular, will find that this is a French goldmine that has been "lost in the sands of time," Fortin said.

Things like the Franco American center and Lacerte's bookstore helped Fortin tap into his heritage and find pride in his ancestry.

"When I came back from the war, I didn't want to speak French. But these things made me proud to hear it," he said.

Lacerte also hosts one of the few French music programs left, which runs 9 a.m. to noon on AM 1370 WFEA. He caters to his listening audience, playing Angele Arsenault, Edith Butler and Jeanette Renault, as well as some Celine Dion, and a bit of Quebec country and traditional music.

Lacerte commutes from his home in Lowell still, but he likes working in Manchester. The city is full of wonderful people, he said.

"I like the smallness of the state, and the fact that I'll cross paths with people often," he said.

Manchester is thick with Franco Americans, and here, he's also smack-dab in the middle of the state, still able to reach people in Keene, Peterborough, and Rochester. (There are 300,000 Franco Americans in New Hampshire alone, he said.) Many of his customers are people who are fluent, people looking to brush up on the language, or people who are looking to remember and practice the French they grew up hearing from their parents and grandparents, Fortin said.

"I just want people to know that it's still around. There's still some Franco American life left here," Fortin said. 🍷



# A few choice books

Give the gift of words this holiday season

By Jennifer Graham  
listings@hippopress.com

Put an endangered species on your holiday shopping list: books.

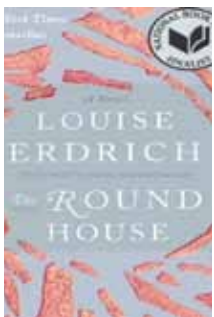
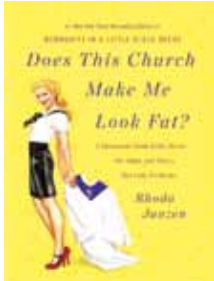
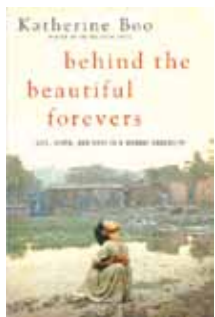
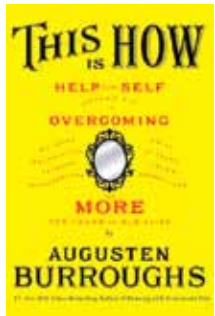
They are, as Stephen King once said, “the perfect entertainment: no commercials, no batteries, hours of enjoyment for each hour spent.” Plus, they’re really easy to wrap. And there’s no nicer way to spend a gray December afternoon than browsing a local bookstore, particularly if it has a coffee nook with almond biscotti.

A book, thoughtfully chosen, can be the best present your friend or family member gets this year. Or it can be a paper fruitcake. To keep your gifts out of the Planet Aid bins, think ahead, and choose books for family and friends among four categories:

### Personal recommendation

A few years ago, I adopted a new holiday tradition: I give my closest friends a copy of the new book that I most enjoyed that year. I don’t like inscribing books – feels too much like vandalism – but I enclose a note explaining that it was my favorite book that year, and why. It gives me a chance to connect with the recipient, to deepen the friendship in ways a Whitman Sampler or a pair of fuzzy socks just can’t. Also, it’s a way to support an author I appreciate, and an industry I hold dear. In that way, it’s one gift, three recipients.

This year’s pick? I’m still mulling. The top contenders are *The Dog Stars* by Peter Heller, *This is How* by Augusten Burroughs, and *Does This Church Make Me Look Fat?* by Rhoda Janzen.



### A holiday collection

Holiday-themed books, particularly if they’re beautiful to look at, are going to be keepers for most everybody.

In my family, we haul out the bin of Christmas books at Thanksgiving and read from them every evening in December.

The perennial favorite, of course, is *A Christmas Carol*, which never gets old, but it’s hard to find the literate household that doesn’t have several copies. A terrific companion to it is 2008’s *The Man Who Invented Christmas: How Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol Rescued His Career and Revived Our Holiday Spirits*. Les Standiford’s story of how Scrooge came to be is beautifully told, and the cover so appropriately festive it doesn’t even need to be wrapped.

For young children, Eric Carle’s *Dream Snow* has become a classic in our house.

And, if you can find it, *A Christmas Treasury*, edited by Jack Newcombe and released in 1982, is an erudite collection of holiday stories, poems and memories from the likes of H.L. Mencken, Dylan Thomas, Samuel Coleridge, Henry James, Eleanor Roosevelt, Willa Cather, John Cheever, E.B. White, Henry Thoreau and Herman Melville.

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## POP CULTURE BOOKS

if not, why are you even giving this person a gift?) If so, troll online auctions for a first edition or a signed copy of one of the author's books.

(Note: You will not be able to find one of *A Christmas Carol*, although the University of North Texas has one on display until the end of the month.)

If you're not that flush, spend a day combing thrift shops and purveyors of used books and amass as large a collection of the author as you can find. Recoup that five you gave the Salvation Army by picking up an armload of hardcovers, which sometimes go for a dollar each.

### BOOK & LECTURE LISTINGS

#### Author events

- **FRITZ WETHERBEE** will sign copies of his latest book, *Fritz Wetherbee's New Hampshire Milestone*, at Milford's Toadstool Bookshop (614 Nashua St., Milford, 673-1734) on Sat., Dec. 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **MARY DOWDLE** sign and talk about their book, *Becoming a Ballerina*, at Barnes & Noble (1741 S. Willow St., Manchester) on Fri., Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. Visit [liefriedman.com](http://liefriedman.com), [marydowdle.com](http://marydowdle.com).
- **JEN BUTENAS** promotes her book, *A Moment in Time*, at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, [waterstreetbooks.com](http://waterstreetbooks.com), on Sat., Dec. 15, at 11 a.m.
- **HANS BAUMANN** will read from and sign *It's History, Believe it or Not*, at RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, [riverrunbookstore.com](http://riverrunbookstore.com), on Tues., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.
- **SEBASTION LOCKWOOD AND NANETTE PERROTTE** present *A Child's Christmas in Wales* and Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory* on Wed., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m., at Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough. Admission \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for members. Free for children. Call 924-4555.
- **MICHAEL PALMER** talks about *Political Suicide* on Fri., Jan. 11, at 7 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore (27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, [gibsonsbookstore.com](http://gibsonsbookstore.com)).
- **JARED DIAMOND** will talk about his latest work, *The World Until Yesterday*, at the Music Hall Loft (Portsmouth, 766-2192) on Thurs., Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13.
- **CHARLOTTE COX** talks about the final project of her late husband, Larry Cox, *Close Encounters of the Common Loon*, on Thursday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, (27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, [gibsonsbookstore.com](http://gibsonsbookstore.com)).
- **KATRINA KENISON** author event at on Wed., Jan. 23, at 7 p.m., about her new book, *Magical Journey: An Apprenticeship in Contentment*.
- **CHRIS CASKO** presents his debut novel, *The Elimination Plan*, on Thurs., Feb. 7, at 7 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, (27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, [gibsonsbookstore.com](http://gibsonsbookstore.com)).
- **BRUCE HEALD** presents *Gypsies of the White Mountains: History of Nomadic Culture* on Thurs., Feb. 21, at 7 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, (27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, [gibsonsbookstore.com](http://gibsonsbookstore.com)).
- **CORY DOCTOROW** will visit Gibson's Bookstore, (27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, [gibsonsbookstore.com](http://gibsonsbookstore.com)) on Sun., Feb. 24, at 3 p.m., to talk about *Little Brother; Homeland*.
- **JORIE GRAHAM**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Place*, will be featured as part of the Eagle Pond Authors' Series on Thurs., Feb. 28, at 7 p.m., at Silver Center for the Arts, Plymouth State University. Followed by dessert and book signing. Free; call 535-ARTS.

#### Book discussions

- **AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY** Friday Afternoon Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at the library. Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info. Visitors and/or new members always welcome (call in advance).
- **ANIME CLUB** at Nashua Public Library for grades 8-12 meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.
- **ANIME CLUB** at Manchester City Library for grades 6-12 meets on some Thursdays at 4 p.m. This is an informal club where fans can gather to play cards, watch movies, discuss their favorite characters, and draw.
- **ANIME & MANGA CLUB** is forming at Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson and seeks members to join. Meetings will involve book discussions, anime viewing and workshops. Visit [www.rodgerslibrary.org](http://www.rodgerslibrary.org) or call 886-6030.
- **THE BOOK CELLAR** in Nashua

## National Book Award winners

Finally, if you really can't be bothered with forethought or research, give a copy of one (or each) of the National Book Award winners, along with a newspaper clipping that announced the honors. You'll look smart, and maybe somebody will actually read them.

This year's winners are: young people's literature, *Goblin Secrets* by William Alexander; poetry, *Bewilderment: New Poems and Translations* by David Ferry; nonfiction, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo; and fiction, *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich.

ua hosts a book club that meets on the first Wed. of each month, new members always welcome. The Book Cellar is at 34 Northwest Blvd., Nashua, in the Westside Plaza, 881-5570, [www.bookcellar-online.com](http://www.bookcellar-online.com).

• **BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY** book discussion group focuses on current literature on Buddhist topics, meets the second Monday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone with an interest in Buddhist philosophy is invited to join: [www.meetup.com/Manchester-Buddhism-Sangha](http://www.meetup.com/Manchester-Buddhism-Sangha).

• **CANDIA SMYTH PUBLIC LIBRARY** book discussion group meets for friendly one-hour discussion once a month. The library is at 55 High St., Candia, 483-8245, [www.smythpl.org](http://www.smythpl.org).

• **CLASSICS CROWD** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop reads 19th-century British classics and meets every other month to discuss books voted on by consensus. New members always welcome.

• **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** hosts monthly book discussions. Everyone is welcome to come for all or any of the dates. All discussion titles are 25 percent off until the date of their discussion. All meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted. They'll talk about *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn and *In the Woods* by Tana French on Mon., Jan. 7, at 7 p.m.; and *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare on Mon., Feb. 4, at 7 p.m.

• **GOFFSTOWN LIBRARY** evening book group meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m., open to any interested teen or adult.

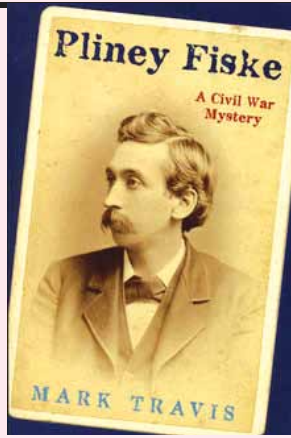
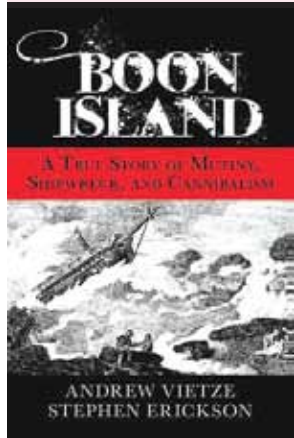
• **GOFFSTOWN LIBRARY** afternoon book group meets Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., open to any interested teen or adult.

• **HOOKSETT LIBRARY** book group generally meets on the third Thursday of the month. New members always welcome.

• **HOLLIS SOCIAL LIBRARY** hosts a book discussion group on the third Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. in the library meeting



# ONE DAY, THREE AUTHORS



If you attend Water Street Bookstore (125 Water St., Exeter, [waterstreetbooks.com](http://waterstreetbooks.com)) on Saturday, Dec. 15, you'll get a triple-whammy of author visits. Children's author Jen Butenas will promote her children's book, *A Moment in Time*, on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 11 a.m., and authors Stephen Erickson and Mark Travis will sign their books, *Boon Island: A True Story of Mutiny, Shipwreck and Cannibalism* and *Pliney Fiske: A Civil War Mystery*, respectively, at 2 p.m.

room. No signup required. Check with the library for the selection of the month.

• **HOOKSETT LIBRARY** tween book group for sixth- and seventh-graders meets certain Wednesdays; sign up online.

• **KELLEY LIBRARY** Book Group meets on Wed., Nov. 28, at 7 p.m. to discuss *Red Garden* by Alice Hoffman. Visit [kelleylibrary.org](http://kelleylibrary.org).

• **KELLEY LIBRARY** in Salem is hosting a four-month Civil War book discussion group. Discussion on Thurs., Dec. 13, at noon, about *March* by Geraldine Brooks.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** evening book discussion group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Hunt Room.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** Brown Bag Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Bring a bag lunch. Tues., Dec. 18, discussing *Left for Dead: a Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis* by Peter Nelson. Tues., Jan. 29, discussing *The Ginger Tree* by Oswald Wynd. Tues., Feb. 26, discussing *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery.

• **MERRIMACK PUBLIC LIBRARY** hosts a book discussion group at 7 p.m. on the third Wed. of each month from Sept. through June. These programs are free and open to the public, no registration required. Extra copies of each book are usually available during the month before its scheduled discussion date.

• **NASHUA NOVEL READERS** group meets monthly on a Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Music/Art/Media wing of Nashua Public Library. Welcomes new members. Discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Anne Shaffer and Annie Barrows in November. Call 589-4610 or email [carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org](mailto:carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org).

• **BOOK DISCUSSION FOR TEENS** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, on the last Tuesday of the month this fall.

• **PEMBROKE TOWN LIBRARY** book discussion group meets on the second Wed. of each month at 6:30 p.m.

• **POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY** nonfiction book club meets on the first Thurs. of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Pollard Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass., 978-674-4121, [pollardml.org](http://pollardml.org).

• **RIVERRUN BOOKSTORE CLASSICS BOOK GROUP** meets at RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, [riverrunbookstore.com](http://riverrunbookstore.com), on Mon., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m., to discuss *Candide* by Voltaire.

• **RODGERS LIBRARY** in Hudson afternoon book discussion group meets on the third Tues. of the month. Books are available at the library; for more info or to add your name to the group mailing list, call 886-6030, email [askus@rogerslibrary.org](mailto:askus@rogerslibrary.org) or visit [www.rogerslibrary.org](http://www.rogerslibrary.org).

• **SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY** discussion group meets at 7

p.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford. Welcomes older teens and adults to share the books they've recently read.

• **SOCRATES CAFE** meets on the first Wed. of each month 7-8:30 p.m. at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford, hosted by Rick Branch. New members and curious thinkers are always welcome.

• **TEEN GALLEY GROUP** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop meets monthly. The group will select free books, many in advance of publication, and review them the following month. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Call Sarah Brodin at the store and sign up to reserve a spot.

• **WADLEIGH LIBRARY** in Milford hosts book clubs that meet monthly, newcomers always welcome.

• **WARNER AREA BOOK CLUB** meets on certain Sundays at MainStreet BookEnds in Warner. All are welcome; call Jen at 456-3021 or email [Jennkane@tds.net](mailto:Jennkane@tds.net) to sign up. 16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, [mainstreetbookends.com](http://mainstreetbookends.com).

## Poetry

• **MIMI WHITE** talks at Rye Public Library (581 Washington Road, Rye, 964-8401) on Thurs., Nov. 29, at 7 p.m., about her poetry book, *Memory Won't Save Me: A Haibun*.

• **WESLEY MCNAIR**, Poet Laureate of Maine, will present *The Words I Chose: A Memoir of Family and Poetry*, at Gibson's Bookstore, 27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, [gibsonsbookstore.com](http://gibsonsbookstore.com), on Thurs., Jan. 24, at 7 p.m.

• **DICK ALLEN** Connecticut Poet Laureate Dick Allen will be guest at the Eagle Pond Authors' Series on Thurs., April 4, at 7 p.m., at Plymouth State University. Followed by dessert and book signing. Tickets free; call 535-ARTS.

• **POETRY SOCIETY OF NH** meets on the third Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore for a poetry reading followed by an open mike hosted by Don Kimball. All are welcome; come to listen or to read.

• **HYLA BROOK READING SERIES** is held at the BeanTowne Coffee House & Café at 201 Route 111 in Hampstead ([beantownecoffee.com](http://beantownecoffee.com)) in winter, and at Robert Frost Farm at 122 Rockingham Road in Derry in the spring and summer (<http://robertfrostfarm.org>). Free and open to the public. An open mike follows the readings. For info, email Robert Crawford at [bobik9@aol.com](mailto:bobik9@aol.com).

• **HYLA BROOK POETS WORKSHOPS** meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Coffee Factory in Derry. For info, contact Robert Crawford at [bobik9@aol.com](mailto:bobik9@aol.com).

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## POP CULTURE FILM

# Dig into reading

## Teen Video Challenge goes Beneath the Surface

By Jeff Mucciarone  
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

In the 2013 Teen Video Challenge, students from across New Hampshire get the chance to peek "Beneath the Surface."

Part of a national initiative to promote summer reading and public libraries, the video challenge provides students with a chance to put their creative abilities to the test as they piece together public service announcements, this year centered on the theme Beneath the Surface.

"They can look at anything related to the underground in any creative way they see," said Ann Hoey, youth services librarian at the New Hampshire State Library and video challenge coordinator.

The 2013 Teen Video Challenge is co-sponsored by the Young Adult Librarians of New Hampshire, which is a section of the New Hampshire Library Association.

Students must complete videos of 30 to 90 seconds that encourage people to read and to use public libraries throughout the summer. With this year's theme, students can incorporate underground, underwater and undercover motifs. Videos must promote the idea of using public libraries and reading, be designed for use at any library and be appropriate for viewing by audiences of all ages, according to an organization press release. The deadline is Feb. 4.

"The theme took so many different directions," Hoey said of last year's participants. "I expect them to do the same [this year]. I'm eager to see what they do with it."

Interest in the contest appears to be growing. The 2012 challenge yielded a record number of submissions. Last year's theme was Own the Night. The number of participants have increased each year, particularly with more and more emphasis in the classroom on video production, Hoey said. Two years ago, the challenge drew nine submissions, but last year it drew about 25.

"They do keep getting better," Hoey said. "Kids are obviously learning about video production. We've seen them be a lot more creative, make a lot better use of the camera. They seem to very much respond to being creative and using the theme. They definitely have some wonderful takes."

So far, Hoey has received emails from teachers interested in having their students participate. The entry period opened a few weeks ago, but Hoey said she's not expecting any submissions any time soon, as in most years the majority of submissions come in at the last minute. That said, it seems students are spending more and more time on their films, Hoey said.

All 50 states participate in the Nation-



The 2013 Teen Video Challenge promotes reading. Courtesy photo

al Summer Reading Collaborative. Hoey is New Hampshire's representative, so she gets to help determine the different themes. Representatives chose this year's theme two years ago and decided on Beneath the Surface after narrowing the field from about 100 suggested themes.

"The children are going to be working around the idea of 'dig into reading,' which we would have thought would have a lot of applications to construction and archaeology," Hoey said. "It has a lot of ways for people to go in."

Hoey's favorite part is getting to see the winning videos. She, along with the other state representatives, gets to see videos first.

"I'm proud to be able to show what New Hampshire, did and it's so much fun to see what other state's kids did. ... Kids are so creative and excited around the country, and they're doing very clever videos."

Each state's winning video will join with other state winners to be used to promote summer reading across the country.

Judges score entries on creativity, message clarity and relevance, motivation and inspiration and overall impact. Filmmakers must be 13 to 18 years old and legal residents of New Hampshire. They may work on their own or as a team; each participant or group may submit one video per entry.

New Hampshire's top entry will be awarded \$275, and the winner's local public library will receive prizes worth \$125. Each participating state's winning video will join other state winners as official national Collaborative Summer Library Program 2013 Teen Video Challenge champions and will be used to promote summer reading across the United States.

All music and artwork used in the videos must be created by the entrant or be in the public domain and must be specified as such on the entry form. Anyone appearing in a video must sign a model release form.

Visit [yals.nhlibrarians.org](http://yals.nhlibrarians.org) or [cslpreads.org/challenge-overview.html](http://cslpreads.org/challenge-overview.html).

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# POP CULTURE FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ

## Playing For Keeps (PG-13)

Gerard Butler is all “check out my broad shoulders and rakish stubble” in *Playing For Keeps*, a movie that is primarily about reminding you how dishy Butler can be.

Remember the first time you saw *300*? And you went “howdy-do King Leonidas” and then said “hel-lo, Sparta” in that scene featuring his (probably digitally improved) derriere? And then remember after that how you saw *P.S. I Love You* and *Ugly Truth* and maybe even *The Bounty Hunter* and decided “ugh, pass”? Well, *Playing For Keeps* is literally all about how Butler is middle-aged-lady catnip and dresses him accordingly (lots of ab-accentuating shirts, just the right amount of tousled in his hair). I’m not sure if this is a movie or just a long “for your consideration” to the editors of People when they’re making next year’s Sexiest Man pick.

Because, you see, George (Butler) is a former pro soccer player, and put that together with his eye crinkles and his Scottish accent and



Playing for Keeps

you can see why the moms at son Lewis’ (Noah Lomax) soccer practice are all a-giggle over him. This is particularly true once George takes over as coach and gets the kids engaged in the sport. The one mom not swooning and fanning herself is Stacie (Jessica Biel), George’s ex and Lewis’ mom. She is trying to move on and is even planning to marry Matt (James Tupper), a boring nice guy.

George may hold out some hope that his plan to recommit himself to being a better dad will end up winning back Sta-

cie as well, but that doesn’t stop him from making very nice with soccer moms Barb (Judy Greer), a recent divorcee, and Denise (Catherine Zeta-Jones), a former sportscaster who holds out her connections with ESPN as a way to get George to spend a little time with her. And then there’s the crazy, wealthy couple: she (Uma Thurman) would like to be one of the moms getting extra time with coach, and he (Dennis Quaid) wants to befriend George to use his fame to wow clients from soccer-loving countries.

Sure, Butler is sexy. But, wow, is *Playing For Keeps* stupid. This is, I guess, a romantic comedy? Or something? About 70 percent of it is about what a fumble-bumble Butler is at all this dad stuff—he’s been a distant father, how wacky! But then, after all the sexing it up with the soccer moms provides us with scenes of what I think is supposed to be comedy, the movie turns left into some stuff about how George misses Stacie. It’s as though the movie itself got all distracted by the shirtless Butler only to swerve back into a story—“oh, right, relationships or something.” I happened to see this movie within 24 hours of seeing *Friends with Kids*, the excellent sort-of rom-com written by, directed by and starring Jennifer Westfeldt. Westfeldt plays a woman who attempts to outmaneuver the romance-killing effect kids can have on a relationship by having a kid with just-friend Adam Scott. Some of the issues in that movie are similar to the issues in this one, but the difference in how they’re handled is like the difference between a perfectly-aged and flavorful Napa

merlot and sugar-free grape Kool-Aid. No subtlety, no moments of genuine life ever touch *Playing For Keeps*. Even Butler’s sex appeal is never really used well—he’s handsome, sure, but we never really get a real person under all those tight shirts. He’s a prop for Zeta-Jones’ aggressiveness, Thurman’s craziness or Greer’s skittishness—that last part being the least appealing of all of George’s mom encounters. Greer can be such a winning comic actress that it’s annoying she’s given such a sad and needy role. The movie could have won itself a few points simply by replacing the brittle, haggard-seeming Biel with Greer.

As it is, however, *Playing For Keeps* spends all its efforts on making Butler look hot, and none at all at making the movie something worth watching. **D-**

*Rated PG-13 for some sexual situations, language and brief intense image. Directed by Gabriele Muccio with a screenplay by Robbie Fox. Playing For Keeps is an hour and 46 minutes long and distributed by FilmDistrict.* 🍷

## The popcorn present

Give the gift of not talking to your family

By Amy Diaz  
adiaz@hippopress.com

Ah, the joys of the holiday season: gathering with the family for parties and meals and long awkward silences followed by uncomfortable discussions of politics or someone’s surgery. Maybe this year, try not talking—and let movies help you facilitate comfortable silence.

### New on DVD/download

For get-togethers at home, keep a movie going in one room to provide people a place to escape unwanted conversations about their love life.

**For the gals:** *Pitch Perfect* (PG-13). Have a house full of teenage/20-something (and older) gals or fans of *Glee*? This light comedy about a college cappella group stands out as one of the fall’s most delightful films. It has a sweet love story, comedy chops (thanks in part to Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson) and, of course, singing.

**For everybody:** *Here Comes the Boom* (PG) or *The Avengers* (PG-13). The Kevin James comedy *Here Comes the Boom* isn’t a good movie, per se, but it is the kind of movie that everybody (say, ages 8 or 9 and up) can



The Avengers

sit through with minimal discomfort, enjoying the occasional chuckle. *The Avengers*, this summer’s big action movie, is a fun time, particularly in its final hour. (With constant fights, this one is probably better for older tweens and up.)

**For the kids:** *ParaNorman* (PG) or *Brave* (PG). Keep kids from taking out their boredom on your breakables with these animated films, which are also not painful for adults to sit through. *ParaNorman* is a sweet little story about a boy who can see and converse with the dead. *Brave* is Pixar’s latest and, while not



ParaNorman

a perfect movie, it is a fun time with a smart girl protagonist (who is technically a princess but has enough of the warrior spirit that the movie will likely appeal to—or at least be tolerable to—boys as well as girls.)

**For the grown-ups:** *Magic Mike* (R) or *The Expendables 2* (R). Stripper dudes, 1980s action stars blowing stuff up—hey, something for everyone. Both of these films are degrees of ridiculous and both are relatively light good times. These movies are probably best for the crowd of people right around your own age (whatever that age happens to



Magic Mike

be), where you can sit back and enjoy some goofiness.

### In theaters now

Of course, sometimes you just want to get out of the house (or get guests out of your house). Here are a few movies in theaters now to take a gang to.

**Kids of all ages:** *Wreck-It Ralph* (PG). A bad guy from a Donkey Kong-like classic arcade game goes on adventures through a first-person shooter and a stock car-meets-Candyland game in this sweet, funny and



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Lincoln



The Hobbit

thoroughly Disney animated film.

**General audience, 12-or-so and up:** *Skyfall* (PG-13). The latest Bond movie has something for everybody (hence its box office success, including a spot at the top of last weekend's box office despite being in theaters for five weeks): you've got your nods to classic Bond, your big action set pieces and your dishy Daniel Craig, who is a top-notch Bond. This movie does a good job of balancing action and just a hint of campy fun.

**Grown-ups:** *Lincoln* (PG-13) or *Argo* (R). Both of these movies based on slices of history make for genuine edge-of-your-seat suspense and feature smart writing and strong performances.

**Coming soon**

The final weeks of December are always a big time at the cineplex with all the big Oscar-bait movies and a few would-be blockbusters competing for your holiday dollars. I haven't seen these movies yet, but at least one of them will likely land on your holiday season schedule.

**For when you need people to be out of the house for a while:** *The Hobbit* (2 hours and 46 minute runtime; opens Dec. 14), *Les Misérables* (2 hours and 37 minute runtime; opens Dec. 25), *Zero Dark Thirty* (2 hours and 37 minutes runtime; opens Dec. 19). The over two-hour movie runtime seems to be the

norm this year. Longer does not always (or even usually) mean better, but it does mean that your movie companions (or the family you gently kick out of the house for a "special treat") will be occupied for more of the afternoon or evening.

**For the kids:** *Monsters Inc.* (Dec. 19). This early Pixar movie gets a 3-D re-release. Sure, you could probably buy a DVD of the film for less money than it will cost to take a few kids and a couple of adults to the movies, but, at the theater, all those M&Ms and popcorn kernels will end up on somebody else's floor, so maybe it's worth it.

**For laughs:** *This Is 40* (R; Dec. 21) and *The Guilt Trip* (PG-13; Dec. 19). It's a Judd Apatow Christmas! Paul Rudd and Leslie Manning (Apatow's real-life wife, appearing here with their daughters) reprise their *Knocked-Up* roles in *This Is 40*, for which I have very high hopes. And, because of Apatow regular Seth Rogen, I'm even looking forward to *The Guilt Trip*, in which a 20-something takes a road trip with his mother, played by Barbra Streisand.

**For all audiences:** *Parental Guidance* (PG; Dec. 25). Every year, we get at least one movie in the "whole family can watch it together" slot; this year this comedy starring Billy Crystal and Bette Midler as grandparents watching daughter Marisa Tomei's kids seems to be that movie. 🍷

REVIEWLETS

\* indicates a movie worth seeing. For reviews of graded films, go to www.hippopress.com.

***Anna Karenina* (R)**  
Keira Knightley, Jude Law. Ballet-set-piece imagery brings a sense of visual fun to this adaptation. **B**

***The Guilt Trip* (PG-13)**  
Barbra Streisand, Seth Rogen. Rogen is a man on a cross-country business-related road trip who decides to bring his mother along. Opens Wednesday, Dec. 19.

day, Dec. 19.  
***The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* (PG-13)**  
Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen. And, on motion capture, Andy Serkis. Once again, Peter Jackson takes us to Middle Earth in a trilogy. Opens Friday, Dec. 14.

***Silver Linings Playbook* (R)**  
Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence. A man attempts to rebuild his life after a stay in a mental

hospital. **A-**  
***Skyfall* (PG-13)**  
Daniel Craig, Judi Dench. Bond returns! **B+**

***The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part II* (PG-13)**  
Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart. Vampires! Wolves! Whatever halfling creature the Bella/Edward baby is! Year of mocking Edward Cullen's pancake-make-up disco ball face and Morrissey hair come down to this all-in finale. **C+**



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644-4629, cinemagicmovies.com

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• *Anna Karenina* (R, 2012) Thurs.,  
Dec. 13, through Sun., Dec. 16, at  
2, 5 & 8 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 17, at  
2 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 18, through  
Thurs., Dec. 20, at 2, 5 & 8 p.m.

• *A Late Quartet* (R, 2012) Thurs.,  
Dec. 13, at 2:05, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.

• *Holy Motors* (NR, 2012) Thurs.,  
Dec. 13, at 2:10 & 7 p.m.

• *Centra Park Five* (NR, 2012)  
Fri., Dec. 14, at 2 & 7:30 p.m.;  
Sat., Dec. 15, at 2, 5:25 & 7:45  
p.m.; Sun., Dec. 16, at 2, 5:25 &  
7:45 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 17, at 2 &  
6:30 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 18., at 2,  
5:25 & 7:45 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 19,  
at 2 & 6:30 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 20,  
at 2, 5:25 & 7:45 p.m.

• *Hitchcock* (PG-13, 2012) Fri.,  
Dec. 14, at 1:30, 3:45 & 7 p.m.;  
Sat., Dec. 15, and Sun., Dec. 16,  
at 1:30 p.m., 3:45, 6 & 8:15 p.m.;  
Mon., Dec. 17, through Thurs.,  
Dec. 20, at 2:05, 5:35 & 7:50 p.m.

• *Moulin Rouge* (PG-13, 2011)  
Sing along New Year's Bash,  
Mon., Dec. 31, at 9 p.m.

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Road, Hooksett, www.snhu.edu

• *Gloria* (PG, 1980) Wed., Dec. 12,  
at 7 p.m.

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ter, 622-9813, gracechurchman-  
chester.org

• *Love Free or Die* (2012) docu-  
mentary about Bishop Gene Rob-  
inson, Episcopal Bishop of New  
Hampshire, on Wed., Dec. 12, at  
6:30 p.m.

**NHTI**  
Sweeney Auditorium, 31 Col-  
lege Drive, Concord, 230-4000,  
ext. 4101, www.nhti.edu. Friday  
night films are open to the public.  
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gested donation.

• *Di Renjie - Detective Dee and the  
Mystery of the Phantom Flame*  
(PG-13, 2011) in Mandarin with  
English subtitles, Fri., Dec. 14, at  
7 p.m.

Dec. 14, at 3 p.m.

• *Ice Age: Continental Drift* (PG,  
2012) Fri., Dec. 21, at 3 p.m.

• *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days*  
(PG, 2012) Fri., Dec. 28, at 3 p.m.

**WILTON TOWN HALL**  
40 Main St. in Wilton, 654-3456,  
wiltontownhalltheatre.com

• *Lincoln* (R, 2012) Thurs., Dec.  
12, through Tuesday, Dec. 25, at  
7:30 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees on  
Sundays.

• *Anna Karenina* (R, 2012) Thurs.,  
Dec. 13, through Thurs., Dec. 20,  
at 7:30 p.m., with screenings at 2, 4  
& 7:30 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 16.

• *The Shop Around the Corner*  
(1940) Sat., Dec. 15, at 4:30 p.m.

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facnh.com.

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French with English subtitles.

**MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY**  
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6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us

• *Mrs. Doubtfire* (PG-13, 1993)  
Wed., Jan. 2, at 1 p.m.

**WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-  
6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us.

• *ParaNorman* (PG, 2012) Fri.,

**POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass.,  
978-970-4120, www.pollardml.  
org, film night on the second  
Thursday of each month from 6:30  
to 9 p.m. Films are not rated.

• *Foreign Letters* (2012) English,  
Hebrew and Vietnamese with sub-  
titles, Thurs., Dec. 13, at 6 p.m.

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# Nite Roundup

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Bang your hair:** Though MTV stopped playing music videos years ago, the network's heyday decade lives on in the hearts of headbangers and glam rockers – for one night, anyway. Drawing a name and the bulk of its set lists from a Poison song, *Flesh N Blood* dips into the catalogs of a few other bands for an '80s Hair Metal Night in Nashua. See *Flesh N Blood* on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. at Arena Sports Bar & Nightclub, 53 High St. in Nashua. See [arenanh.com](http://arenanh.com).

• **New blood:** After releasing an eponymous third album in August, active rockers Mindset X welcomed a new bass player into the fold recently. Paul Davidson debuted earlier this month at a show in Seabrook, and by all accounts he's a solid fit. A weekend Queen City show provides the first chance for hometown fans to check out the newly reconfigured trio. See Mindset X on Friday, Dec. 14, at 9 p.m. at Mad Bob's Saloon, 342 Lincoln St. in Manchester. See [mindsetx.com](http://mindsetx.com).

• **Small town girl:** New Hampshire native Jandee Lee Porter's musical influences range from old school Patsy Cline to singer songwriters like James Taylor and Paul Simon, tempered with the rise above toughness of Miranda Lambert. The latter is reflected in a top-notch band that gives Porter's well-wrought songs a solid backbone. See The Jandee Lee Porter Band on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. at Brookline Events Center, 32 Proctor Hill Road (Route 130) in Brookline. Tickets are \$10 at the door. See [jandeeleepor.com](http://jandeeleepor.com).

• **Show-ho-ho:** Holiday spirit abounds at an annual benefit featuring house band The Velvet Elves, Gary "Ho-Ho" Hoey and Mike Girard of The Fools, who performed the hilarious original "Christmas Loser" last year. With comedy including Bob Marley, Jimmy Dunn, Super Secret Project and a bevy of musical guests, the stage should be crowded by night's end. Attend The Buzz Christmas Ball on Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. at Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester. Tickets are \$30-\$40 at [palacetheatre.org](http://palacetheatre.org).

• **Local laughs:** Area comics, including Jay Chanoine, Brad Hagen and Ryan Leach, join together to support Toys for Tots. The lineup is growing, and last year's fundraiser netted over \$1,500 for the holiday charity. Donate gifts or cash to enter a raffle for sex toys, sports tickets or even a date with former West High Mr. Congeniality Hagen. Attend Laugh Free or Donate on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m. at The Shaskeen, 909 Elm St. in Manchester. See [facebook.com/](http://facebook.com/)

## NITE GIFT GUIDE

# Concerts on your iPad

And other gifts for the music fan

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

When searching for the right gift for the music lover in your life, choices run the spectrum. Have a classic rocker looking to live large? Try **the full Who package:** tickets to hear the band perform *Quadrophenia* from start to finish on Feb. 24 at the Verizon Wireless (\$72-\$625, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)), the Criterion Collection release of the 1979 movie, and a copy of Pete Townsend's biography *Who I Am* (both available at Newbury Comics).

More down to earth budget-wise, and a better example of why '60s music resonates across generations, is a DVD or Blu-Ray of *Charlie Is My Darling*, which documents the Rolling Stones' tour of Ireland just as "Satisfaction" was racing up the charts. A young, somewhat innocent Mick Jagger once said he'd rather be dead than singing that song at age 40 – for this film, anyway, time stands still.

But why give annuities to aging rock stars when there's so much great local music available? 2012 was a banner year for the scene studio-wise. Leaving Eden's latest, *Between Heaven and Hell*, is great hard rock album. *Seven Nights To Rock*, the new EP by Portsmouth band The Connection, is pure pop. Sirius/XM's Underground Garage named "I Think She Digs Me" its Coolest Song In The World a few weeks back. Buy it and a vinyl limited edition of **New England's Newest Hit Makers** on [theconnection.storenvy.com](http://theconnection.storenvy.com).

Tristan Omand is waiting for the vinyl pressing of his new *Wandering Time* album; in the interim, it's available on iTunes, as are great releases by Gone For Days, Best Not Broken, Craving Lucy and comedian Nick Lavallee.

Every fan loves a **gift card from the Apple digital music store**, and you can buy them almost anywhere – check the end cap at Hannaford if you doubt this.

On the digital front, give a **subscription to Concert Window**, a network that includes Tupelo Music Hall and Cambridge's Club Passim. Nine bucks a month buys unlimited access to live music broadcast from 11 venues around the United States, viewable

on computer, iPad and iPhone ([concertwindow.com](http://concertwindow.com)).

Help a real fan participate in the making of a record. Brooks Young Band is hard at work on an as-yet unnamed album due for release next June. But a donation of as little as \$10 to the group's **Pledge Music Project** ([pledgemusic.com/projects/byalbum](http://pledgemusic.com/projects/byalbum)) guarantees digital access in early April. Give more money for bigger perks like rehearsal time with the band (\$50) or a chance to play on a track (\$200). Considering Young made his bones playing alongside everyone from B.B. King to Robert Randolph, practice is a must.

**Gear is a great gift.** In addition to *As Country As It Gets*, the latest CD from the Eric Grant Band, the country rockers sell T-shirts for men and women, and a great limited edition distressed trucker's hat is available ([ericgrantband.com](http://ericgrantband.com)). Leaving Eden borrowed Iron Maiden's artist for its album cover and offers a two-sided shirt that's pure metal.

Ballroom Thieves hail from Boston, but New Hampshire Institute of Art graduate Annika Earley designed the **beetle adorned shirt** available at shows and the band's website ([ballroomthieves.com](http://ballroomthieves.com)). Tupelo favorite Liz Longley not only sells T-shirts but will personally write out a set of lyrics for \$50, and she also sells a very cool guitar shaped pendant ([lizlongley.com](http://lizlongley.com)).

**Concert tickets** are always a good present. *America's Got Talent* stars and hometown heroes Recycled Percussion play two shows at Manchester's Palace Theatre (Dec. 30 and 31, \$29). Also upcoming at the Palace are 1964: The Tribute (Jan. 20), John Waite (Feb. 1) and Air Supply ([palacetheatre.org](http://palacetheatre.org)). Denny Laine, co-founder of Wings with Paul McCartney, leads a band recreating The Beatles' *Abbey Road* at Concord's Capitol Center on Jan. 25.

Or, rather than give the gift of recorded or live music, why not **create a musician**? Local drummer Jeffrey Samataro will teach the tricks of the sticks with private lessons ([jeffsamataromusic.com](http://jeffsamataromusic.com)). A guitar makes a great gift – on the pricey side, John Mann's Guitar Vault specializes in Paul Reed Smith, the choice of Carlos Santana and others. A new PRS ranges from \$700 to \$7,000 – it's a



serious instrument for a serious player.

For beginners, more affordable package deals are a good choice, according to Manchester Music Mill sales manager John Poole.

"You can buy a kit from Fender or Gibson. What you get depends on your taste. A used LP with a Marshall combo amp, extra strings and a tuner can run around \$250," he said.

By LP, Poole means Les Paul, the axe of choice for Jeff Beck, Jimmy Page and other classic rockers. From small things, big things grow. 🍷

## Nightlife Listings Music, comedy & parties

• **HOLIDAY PARTY** to benefit New Horizons for New Hampshire at Milly's Tavern (500 Commercial St., Manchester) Fri., Dec. 14, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Live music and refreshments will be available. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Visit [millystavern.com](http://millystavern.com).

• **HOLIDAY FOLK CONCERT** at

Concord Community Music School (23 Wall St., Manchester) Sat., Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m. David Surette, Susie Burke and Kent Allyn will perform. Tickets are \$12 for students and seniors and \$15 for adults. Visit [www.ccmusicschool.org](http://www.ccmusicschool.org).

• **A CAPPELLA BENEFIT CONCERT** at Verdant Pastures Auditorium (38 Ladds' Lane, Epping) Sat., Dec.

15, at 7:30 p.m. A cappella acts Tuckermans at 9 and The Sugarbeats will perform. Tickets are \$20 and benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Community Assistance Center. Visit [www.tuckermansat9.com](http://www.tuckermansat9.com).

• **RMS FIVE PERFORMANCE** at the Community Congregational Church of Greenland (Post Road, Greenland) Sun., Dec. 16, at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10

in advance and \$12 at the door.

• **THE BUZZ CHRISTMAS BALL** at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester) Tues., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. Greg and the Morning Buzz will host the show featuring a variety of live music, comedy and seasonal characters. Tickets range from \$30-\$40. Call 668-5588 or visit [www.palacetheatre.org](http://www.palacetheatre.org).



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**NITE**

## Musical growth

All-ages venues provide stepping stone for young bands

By Cory Francer  
[cfrancer@hippopress.com](mailto:cfrancer@hippopress.com)

When local rock band Zanois first started booking shows, they ran into an unexpected roadblock. Because bass and keyboard player Zane McDaniel was 16, they were restricted from playing at some bars.

"They said, 'Let me know when your son turns 21,'" Gavin McDaniel said.

So Zanois, which includes Gavin McDaniel's older son Justice, had to look elsewhere. After a little investigating, they found The Jam Factory in downtown Manchester. Unlike other local venues, The Jam Factory allows musicians of all ages to take the stage.

Now the McDaniels' family band — Zane, Gavin on drums and Justice McDaniel on guitar — has ample opportunity to play for an audience. The non-profit, donation-based venue gives unique bands like Zanois a place to get experience performing live.

Sadi Khan, a Jam Factory manager and board member, said the venue is all about allowing young musicians to meet each other and become better musicians, expanding and strengthening Manchester's local music scene.

"My goal is to help those bands who want to be national acts and reach out to elevate them to national status," Khan said.

When she first started playing at The Jam Factory, Londonderry resident and Northern Essex Community College student Amanda McCarthy said she immediately noticed and appreciated the positive environment and welcoming atmosphere. As a solo artist playing guitar, ukulele and piano, she said she has been playing there for nearly a year and has been invited to host open mike nights.

"For anyone who is thinking about starting out, Sadi is very encouraging and good at taking someone who hasn't been doing this and giving them an opportunity," McCarthy said.

For approximately 15 years The Sad Cafe, a non-profit, all-ages venue in Plaistow, has prided itself on being a safe and supportive environment for young musicians and their audiences. The cafe is substance free and only hosts bands that promote positive messages.

The Sad Cafe Executive Director Ruth Marie Kay said by creating a supportive environment where any young musician can express themselves in a pressure-free environment, Kay said The Sad Cafe has become a safe haven for youth in the area.

"There are kids who come back month after month," Kay said. "Even if they're not playing on stage, they will be in the audience



All-ages bands and fans fill The Sad Cafe in Plaistow. Courtesy photo.

### Rated E for everyone

**The Jam Factory**, 1211 Elm St., Manchester, [tjfnh.com](http://tjfnh.com).

**The Sad Cafe**, 148 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, [thesadcafe.com](http://thesadcafe.com).

**Ground Zero**, 48 Allenstown Road, Allenstown, [groundzzzero.com](http://groundzzzero.com).

supporting their peers. These kids are optimists. They're not defeated."

McDaniel said Zanois played The Sad Cafe for the first time a few weeks ago and was encouraged by the positive environment.

For Christian Skinner, who operates and runs the booking for Ground Zero in Allenstown, opening a place where teenagers could feel safe while promoting positive messages in their lyrics was a life calling.

Skinner says he himself was once a troubled teen, but once he discovered Christian rock music, he was able to turn his life around. Ground Zero is not a Christian rock venue, but, like The Sad Cafe, all of the bands that play there must promote a positive message.

"My whole goal was to give kids a safe place to come hang out and play in an original band and interact with peers," he said. "We want them to feel welcome and not feel alienated."

Though the venues have helped establish local bands with local fanbases, some have found it difficult to remain open. Kay said The Sad Cafe is in the midst of an online fundraiser with a goal of raising \$25,000. Skinner said as technology has advanced, teenagers seem to have lost interest in seeking out live music.

"We've seen in last three to four years teen culture has changed and we're lucky to get 30 or 40 kids at shows, and they're all texting," Skinner said.

But McCarthy said having local music venues that allow younger musicians to experiment is essential.

"It's important," she said. "Everyone needs to be heard somewhere." 🐾



# Holiday green

*Celtic Sojourn* weaves music, stories and dancing

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

When Brian O'Donovan first considered turning his Celtic Sojourn public radio program into a holiday-themed live show, he wasn't sure what to expect. But *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* resonated immediately. Now in its 10th year, the mix of music, dancing and holiday lore is performed in five cities across New England.

After stopping in Portsmouth for many years, it moves west to Derry's Stockbridge Theatre on Saturday, Dec. 15 — fitting in light of the Merrimack Valley's rich Celtic heritage. Londonderry and Derry were known as Nutfield when Scotch-Irish immigrants created an early new world settlement there in 1719.

"I think the census figures are quite phenomenal, people with Irish heritage as their background," O'Donovan said, "both in the Protestant and Catholic traditions, which I find fascinating. We're very excited to be in southern New Hampshire."

O'Donovan calls the evening "a cross between a good old-fashioned variety show and a kitchen gathering — taking the songs and tunes of the season and intermingling them seamlessly with spoken word."

Mixing the ancient with the modern, the holy and the pagan, *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* is about more than just Irish music. This reflects O'Donovan's varied background. Musically, he came of age in the '60s. The 1969 debut of Crosby, Stills and Nash tops his desert island disc list, and *The Last Waltz* is his favorite music documentary.

Recalling his youth, O'Donovan said, "We vicariously lived on Route 66, even though we were in a tiny village in West Cork."

Traditional Irish music found O'Donovan via the inventive approach of performers like The Chieftans, Planxty and its progeny The Bothy Band.

"They basically did what rock and roll and jazz had done," he said. "The Chieftains pioneered the system where one of the group would take a solo a la jazz or rock ... the tunes had the same integrity [but] the way they packaged and presented them suddenly opened my eyes and my generation's eyes to the value of all that was around us, and that was the value of our own traditional music."

Asked what excites him about the upcoming program, O'Donovan named the polyrhythmic pair of harpist Catriona McKay and fiddler Chris Stout and said their breathtaking performance was a highlight last year.



Harpist Catriona McKay and fiddler Chris Stout. Courtesy photo.

"It's so compelling to watch," he said. "Ask yourself if this is traditional music ... it seems Celtic, but it has this incredible sophistication."

Seamus Egan and the neo-traditional band Solas anchor the evening, which also features the *Sojourn* debut of Scottish singer Alyth McCormack, frequently a lead singer with the Chieftains. Wisconsin-based Navan, on the other hand, has been around since the beginning, singing four-part harmony — "in all six Celtic languages," noted O'Donovan.

O'Donovan is fond of saying that enjoying the showing requires simply a love of music, not just Irish music.

"We have a jazz drummer, there's a whole smorgasbord of people there creating a unified sound," he said.

Then there's the dancing. "It's something we really focus on — traditional Irish is clearly the most popular," said O'Donovan, noting that Cara Butler, one of three featured dancers, is the sister of *Riverdance* founder Jean Butler. But it moves further with Jon and Nathan Pilatzke, whose dance tradition comes from the Ottawa Valley in Canada.

"It's a wild style that blends Irish, French Canadian with a lot of Scottish thrown in."

O'Donovan came to Boston in 1976 intending to stay for three weeks; he fell in love and never left. He and wife Lindsay have four children, all musically inclined. Aoife O'Donovan is a leading alt Americana light, youngest daughter Fionnuala performed with *Celtic Sojourn* before heading to college, and two middle sons, Ciaran and Aidan, are, according to their father, "musical — but don't do it professionally."

## A Celtic Christmas Sojourn

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Stockbridge Theatre, Pinkerton Academy in Derry  
**Tickets:** Between \$35 to \$48 at [www.heptunesconcerts.com](http://www.heptunesconcerts.com)

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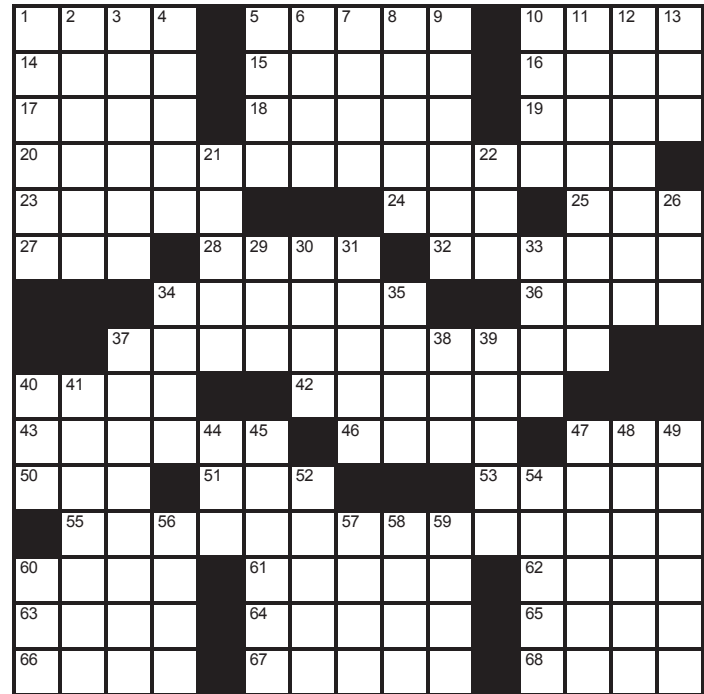
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Across

1. Cure 'Grinding \_\_\_' (2,3)  
5. "Take it to the \_\_\_, one more time"  
10. Party thrower  
14. 'I Just Can't Live \_\_\_ \_\_\_' Carrie Underwood (1,3)  
15. Counting Crows 'A Murder \_\_\_ \_\_\_'



24. Vancouver punks that died on the way there?  
25. Paul McCartney 2012 reissue  
27. Cars 'Bye, Bye Love' singer Benjamin  
28. 'Popular' band \_\_\_ Surf  
32. Ed of Collective Soul  
34. What married rockers have to do on road  
36. Gains a member  
37. Thomas Dolby 'She Blinded My \_\_\_' (4,7)  
40. 'Tongue \_\_\_' October Fall  
42. Country singer Underwood  
43. Rik of Triumph  
46. Reach a career high  
47. Rockers don't have to, w/willing groupies  
50. 'The Legend Of Xanadu' singer Dave  
51. Husky-voiced sing/songster Chris  
53. Seether '\_\_\_ And Effect'  
55. Michael Jackson 'Bad' smash (3,2,3,6)  
60. 80s 'I Like It' guy  
61. Alicia Keys "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ can get in the way of what I'm feeling" (2,3)  
62. Might have to pedal one to first show  
63. Beyonce 'Single Ladies (Put A Ring \_\_\_)' (2,2)  
64. Gene Simmons "I'm living \_\_\_, at the Holiday Inn" (2,3)  
65. Hot Helmet song?  
66. George Thorogood '\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Haircut' (3,1)  
67. 'Dizzy Heights' band Lightning \_\_\_

68. Completely make over in the studio

Down

1. Hives '\_\_\_ Say I Told You So' (4,2)  
2. Taylor Dayne 'Send Me \_\_\_' (1,5)  
3. 'Sending All My Love' band that go in a straight line?  
4. When most fans get into music  
5. Rockpile's Nick  
6. Sheryl Crow '\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Makes You Happy' (2,2)  
7. 'The \_\_\_ Beautiful Girl In The World' Prince  
8. Boston '\_\_\_ Your Love' (1,4)  
9. Feeling when you lose tickets  
10. Weezer '\_\_\_ Pipe'  
11. Rage Against The Machine 'Bulls \_\_\_' (2,6)  
12. Hazies '\_\_\_ Bones' (4,3)  
13. The Clash 'Atom \_\_\_'  
21. 'Love & Life' R&B singer Eric  
22. Rick Springfield 'Celebrate Youth' album  
26. 'Chillin' Force \_\_\_  
29. 'Argus' rockers Wishbone \_\_\_  
30. 'D' in CD  
31. Performing rights org  
33. Nicks/Henley 'Leather And \_\_\_'  
34. Poison '\_\_\_ The Wind'  
35. Bad thing for van to blow  
37. REO Speedwagon 'This Time \_\_\_' (2,4,2)  
38. The time of doo-wop, e.g  
39. Sixx of Motley Crue  
40. 'Cat Scratch Fever' Nugent  
41. George Harrison 'Let It Be' song

- (1,2,4)  
44. Abby Ahmad '\_\_\_-Me'  
45. Cream "Anyone for \_\_\_, wouldn't that be nice?"  
47. What rocker will do at hotel, post-show  
48. What you did before you put Grateful Dead on, perhaps  
49. Yeah Yeah Yeahs singer (5,1)  
52. A pitch (1,4)  
54. Big Head Todd 'Ann \_\_\_ Grandfather'  
56. Tim McGraw '\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Moment Too Soon' (3,1)  
57. First thing that comes off backstage? (abbr)  
58. Barenaked Ladies song named after seat of Garfield County, Okla?  
59. Room you take a break in, at show  
60. "You ain't nothing but a hound \_\_\_"

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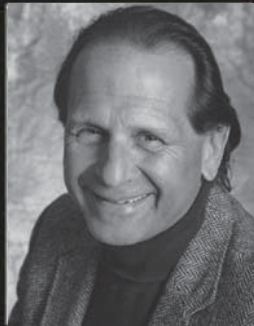
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<b>Bristol</b> <b>The Back Room at The Mill</b> 2 Central St., 744-0405	<b>Derry</b> <b>Adams Opera House</b> 29 W. Broadway <b>Coffee Factory</b> 55 Crystal Ave., 432-6006 <b>Halligan Tavern</b> 32 W. Broadway, 965-3490	<b>Epping</b> <b>American Legion</b> 232 Calef Hwy. (Rt. 125) <b>Holy Grail Food &amp; Spirits</b> 64 Main St., 679-9559	<b>Hudson</b> <b>AJ’s Sports Bar &amp; Grill</b> 11 Tracy Lane,718-1102 <b>JD Chaser’s</b> 2B Burnham Road, 886-0792
			<b>Kingston</b> <b>Bucco’s Tavern</b> 143 Main St., 642-4999 <b>The Kingston</b> 1686 House Tavern 127 Main St., 642-3637
			<b>Laconia</b> <b>Anthony’s Pier Restaurant</b> 263 Lakeside Ave., 366-5855 <b>Baja Beach Club @ China Bistro</b> 89 Lake St., 524-0008 <b>Broken Spoke Saloon</b> 1072 Watson Road, 366-5511 <b>Cactus Jack’s</b> 1182 Union Ave., 528-7800 <b>The Crazy Gringo</b> 306 Lakeside Ave., 366-4411 <b>Fratello’s</b> 799 Union Ave., 528-2022 <b>Margate Resort</b> 76 Lake St., 524-5210 <b>Naswa Resort</b> 1086 Weirs Blvd., 366-4341 <b>Paradise Beach Club</b> 322 Lakeside Ave., 366-2665
			<b>Patio Garden Restaurant</b> Lakeside Ave. <b>Pitman’s Freight Room</b> 94 New Salem St., 527-0043 <b>Tower Hill Tavern</b> 264 Lakeside Ave., 366-9100 <b>Weirs Beach Lobster Pound</b> 72 Endicott St., 366-2255 <b>Weirs Beach Smokehouse</b> Rt 3 Laconia, 366-2400
			<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop Restaurant and Tavern</b> 176 Mammoth Road, 437-2022 <b>Mayflower Grange</b> 535 Mammoth Road, 867-3077 <b>Stumble Inn Bar &amp; Grill</b> 20 Rockingham Road <b>Whippersnappers</b> 44 Nashua Road, 434-2660
			<b>Loudon</b> <b>Graverobbers Coffeehouse</b> Loudon Congregational Church, 7018 Church St., 783-9478
			<b>Manchester</b> <b>900 Degrees</b> 50 Dow St., 641-0900 <b>American Legion Wm H Jutras &amp; Post No 43</b> 56 Boutwell St., 623-9467 <b>American Legion Post #79</b> 35 W. Brook St. <b>American Legion Sweeney Post</b> 251 Maple St., 623-9145 <b>Blu</b> 1087 Elm St., 669-5523 <b>Boynton’s Taproom</b> 155 Dow St., 623-7778 <b>Breezeway Pub</b> 14 Pearl St., 621-9111 <b>British Beer Company</b> 1071 S. Willow St., 232-0677
			<b>City Sports Grille</b> 216 Maple St., 625-9656 <b>Club 313</b> 93 S. Maple St., 628-6813 <b>Club Realm</b> 19 Amherst St., 935-7659 <b>Derryfield Country Club</b> 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880 <b>Don Quijote</b> 333 Valley St., 792-1110 <b>Drynk</b> 20 Old Granite St., 836-5251 <b>Element Lounge</b> 1055 Elm St., 627-2922 <b>Farm Bar &amp; Grille</b> 1181 Elm St., 641-3276 <b>Fratello’s</b> 155 Dow St., 624-2022 <b>Gauche’s Churrascaria</b> 62 Lowell St., 669-9460 <b>Hanover St. Chophouse</b> 149 Hanover St., 644-2467 <b>Ignite Bar &amp; Grille</b> 100 Hanover St., 494-6225 <b>Jam Factory</b> 1211 Elm St., 203-1458 <b>Jillian’s Billiard Club</b> 50 Philippe Cote Drive, 626-7636 <b>Jokers</b> 1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947 <b>Lafayette Club</b> 387 Canal St., 623-9323 <b>Lazy Nick’s Coffee House</b> 362 Huse Road, 232-7187 <b>Luigi’s Pizza Bar &amp; Grille</b> 712 Valley St., 622-1021 <b>Mad Bob’s Saloon</b> 342 Lincoln St., 669-3049 <b>McGarvey’s</b> 1097 Elm St., 627-2721 <b>Milly’s Tavern</b> 500 Commercial St., 625-4444 <b>Murphy’s Taproom</b> 494 Elm St., 644-3535 <b>My Friend’s Bar and Grill</b> 507 Maple St., 627-3444 <b>NH Institute of Art</b> 148 Concord St. <b>Olympic Lounge</b> 506 Valley St., 644-5559
			<b>Piccola’s Upstairs Lounge</b> 815 Elm St. <b>Raxx Lounge</b> 1195 Elm St. <b>Rocko’s Bar &amp; Grill</b> 253 Wilson St., 626-5866 <b>Salona Bar &amp; Grill</b> 128 Maple St., 624-4020 <b>Sam Adams Bar &amp; Grill</b> Northeast Delta Dental Stadium, 1 Line Drive., 641-2005 <b>The Shaskeen</b> 909 Elm St., 625-0246 <b>Social 24</b> 24 Depot St., 782-8489 <b>Stage Door</b> 96 Hanover St., 626-9830 <b>Starbucks</b> 1111 S. Willow St., 641-4839 <b>Strange Brew Tavern</b> 88 Market St., 666-4292 <b>Theos</b> 102 Elm St., 669-4678 <b>Unwine’d</b> 865 Second St., 625-9463 <b>The Wild Rover</b> 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722 <b>Workmen’s Club</b> 183 Douglas St. <b>XO on Elm</b> 827 Elm St., 206-5721 <b>The Yard</b> 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545
			<b>Meredith</b> <b>Camp</b> 300 DW Highway, 279-3003 <b>Giuseppe’s Ristorante</b> 312 DW Highway, 279-3313
			<b>Merrimack</b> <b>The Homestead</b> 641 DW Hwy., 429-2022 <b>Jade Dragon</b> 515 DW Highway, 424-2280
			<b>Milford</b> <b>American Legion</b> 15 Cottage St., 673-9804

Thursday, Dec. 13			
<b>Concord</b> <b>Hermanos:</b> Tim Wildman & Jock Irvine <b>True Brew Barista:</b> Acousti-saurus	Heather Pierson Quartet	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>The Homestead:</b> Tim Gurshin	<b>Friday, Dec. 14</b> <b>Allenstown</b> <b>Ground Zero:</b> Dead River, Poor Soul, Tim Scott
<b>Dover</b> <b>Brick House:</b> The Tony Sant-esse Duo <b>Fury’s:</b> A Casual Encounter	<b>Londonderry</b> <b>The Coach Stop:</b> Charlie Chris-tos <b>Whippersnappers:</b> Napoleon in Rags	<b>Milford</b> <b>J’s Tavern:</b> Chris Lester <b>The Pasta Loft:</b> Ryan Bossie	<b>Boscawen</b> <b>Alan’s:</b> Joe Fuzz
<b>Epping</b> <b>Holy Grail Food &amp; Spirits:</b> Dave Gerard	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Blu:</b> DJ Chad <b>Club 313:</b> DJ Pez <b>Fratellos:</b> Jazz Night <b>Jokers:</b> Will Metivier <b>Shaskeen:</b> Ellis Ashbrooke <b>Stage Door:</b> Nate and Demetri <b>Strange Brew:</b> Johnny and the Two-Timers	<b>Nashua</b> <b>Fody’s:</b> Matt Jackson	<b>Concord</b> <b>Loudon Road Restaurant and Pit Road Lounge:</b> Exit 21 <b>Makris:</b> Deja Voodoo <b>Purple Pit:</b> Wendy Nottonson <b>Red Blazer:</b> Chafed <b>True Brew Barista:</b> Matt Poirier
<b>Hampstead</b> <b>Pasta Loft:</b> Chris & Matt	<b>Meredith</b> <b>Giuseppe’s:</b> Matt Langley	<b>New London</b> <b>Flying Goose:</b> Harvey Reid	<b>Dover</b> <b>American Legion Post 8:</b> Bill Vendasi <b>Fury’s:</b> Ghosts of Jupiter
<b>Laconia</b> <b>Pitman’s Freight Room:</b> The		<b>Newmarket</b> <b>Stone Church:</b> Live Irish Music	<b>Hampton</b> <b>Ron’s Landing:</b> Tim Theriault <b>Wally’s Pub:</b> The Old Bastards
		<b>Portsmouth</b> <b>Ri Ra:</b> Joel Cage <b>Rudi’s:</b> Mike Stockbridge Trio <b>Thirsty Moose:</b> Waylon Speed	<b>Laconia</b> <b>Fratellos:</b> Paul Warnick
			<b>Londonderry</b> <b>The Coach Stop:</b> Kieran McNally <b>Whippersnappers:</b> Spiral Circus



**Chapanga's**  
168 Elm St., 249-5214  
**Clark's Tavern**  
40 Nashua St., 769-3119  
**J's Tavern**  
63 Union Sq., 249-9222  
**The Pasta Loft**  
241 Union Sq., 672-2270  
**Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills**  
50 Emerson Road, 673-7123

**Nashua**  
**Arena Sportsbar & Nightclub**  
53 High St., 881-9060  
**Backstage Bar and Grill**  
56 Canal St., 598-8256  
**Boston Billiard Club**  
55 Northeastern Blvd., 595-2121  
**Country Tavern**  
452 Amherst St., 889-5871  
**Fat Daddy's Cafe**  
650 Amherst St.  
**Fody's Tavern**  
9 Clinton St., 577-9015  
**Haluwa Lounge**  
Nashua Mall, 883-6662  
**Junkyard**  
522 Amherst St., 882-6026  
**Killarney's Irish Pub**  
Holiday Inn, 888-1551  
**Lafayette Club**  
34 High St., 889-9860  
**Martha's Exchange**  
185 Main St., 883-8781  
**McKenzie's Restaurant and Bar**  
96 Main St., 577-1151  
**Michael Timothy's**  
212 Main St., 595-9334  
**Nashua Garden**  
121 Main St., 886-7363  
**Old Amsterdam Bar**  
8 Temple St., 204-5501  
**The Peddler's Daughter**  
48 Main St., 880-8686  
**Penuche's Ale House**  
4 Canal St., 595-9831  
**Pine Street Eatery**  
136 Pine St., 886-3501  
**The Polish American Club**  
15 School St., 889-9819

**Simple Gifts Coffee House**  
58 Lowell St.  
**603 Lounge**  
14 W. Hollis St., 821-5260  
**Slade's Food & Spirits**  
4 W. Hollis St., 886-1334  
**Stella Blu**  
70 E. Pearl St., 578-5557  
**Studio 99**  
17 Factory St., 562-5179  
**Unums**  
47 E. Pearl St., 821-6500  
**Villa Banca**  
194 Main St., 598-0500  
**Wicked Twisted Bar & Grill**  
38 E. Hollis St., 577-1718, wickedtwistedbarandgrill.com

**New Boston**  
**Molly's Tavern**  
35 Mont Vernon Road, 487-2011

**New London**  
**Flying Goose Brew Pub & Grille**  
40 Andover Road, 526-6899

**Newmarket**  
**Lamprey River Tavern**  
110 Main St., 659-3696  
**KJ's Sports Bar**  
N. Main St., 659-2329  
**Stone Church**  
5 Granite St., 650-7700

**Newton**  
**Hen House Sports Bar & Grill**  
85 S. Main St., 382-1705

**Pelham**  
**Shooters**  
116 Bridge St., 635-3577

**Peterborough**  
**Harlow's Pub**  
3 School St., 924-6365  
**Peterborough Players Theater**  
Hadley Road

**Plaistow**  
**Corner Pocket**  
181 Plaistow Road., 382-3130  
**Dugout Grille**  
93 Main St., 819-4947  
**The Sad Cafe**  
148 Plaistow Road, 382-8893

**Portsmouth**  
**American Legion Post 6**  
96 Islington St.  
**Blue Mermaid Island**  
Grill hill at Hanover and High streets, 427-2583  
**Daniel Street Tavern**  
111 Daniel St.  
**Dolphin Striker**  
15 Bow St., 431-5222  
**Fat Belly's**  
2 Bow St., 610-4337  
**Gas Light Co.**  
64 Market St., 431-9122  
**The Hilton Garden Inn**  
100 High St., 431-1499  
**Jitto's Supersteak**  
3131 Lafayette Road, 436-9755  
**Martingale Wharf**  
99 Bow St., 431-0901  
**The Music Hall**  
104 Congress St., 433-3100  
**Paddy's American Grill**  
27 International Drive, 430-9450  
**Portsmouth Pearl**  
45 Pearl St., 431-0148  
**Press Room**  
77 Daniel St., 431-5186  
**The Red Door**  
107 State St., 433-6827  
**Red Hook Brewery**  
35 Corporate Drive, 430-8600  
**Ri Ra Irish Pub**  
22 Market Square, 319-1680  
**Rudi's**  
20 High St., 430-7834  
**Rusty Hammer**  
49 Pleasant St., 436-9289  
**Thirsty Moose Tap House**  
21 Congress St., 427-8645  
**The Wet Bar**  
172 Hanover St.

**Raymond**  
**Famous Legends Bar & Grill at Strikers East**  
4 Essex Drive  
**Freetown Yankee**  
Market 58 Route 27, 895-3418

**Salem**  
**Black Water Grill**  
43 Pelham Road, 328-9013  
**Jocelyn's Lounge**  
355 S. Broadway, 870-0045  
**Murray's Tavern**  
326 S. Broadway, 894-9100  
**Sayde's Restaurant**  
136 Cluff Crossing Road, 890-1032  
**The Varsity Club**  
67 Main St., 898-4344

**Seabrook**  
**American Legion Post 70**  
169 Walton Road  
**Chop Shop Pub**  
920 Lafayette Road, 474-6001  
**Honey Pot Bar & Lounge**  
920 Lafayette Road, 760-2013  
**Master McGrath's**  
Route 107, 474-6540  
**Prime Time Sports Grill**  
620 Lafayette Road, 760-7230

**Sunapee**  
**One Mile West Tavern**  
6 Brook Road, 863-7500  
**Sunapee Coffee House**  
Methodist Church, Route 11

**Wilton**  
**Pine Hill Auditorium**  
Pine Hill Waldorf School, 77 Pine Hill Drive

**Windham**  
**Jonathon's Lounge**  
Park Place Lanes, Route 28, 800-892-0568

**Merrimack**  
**The Homestead:** Marybeth Maes

**Milford**  
**Chapanga's:** Pop Farmers  
**Clark's Tavern:** Adam Payne  
**J's Tavern:** The Boogiemens  
**Pasta Loft:** Take 4

**Nashua**  
**Fody's:** Luddy Mussy  
**Killarney's:** Karen Grenier  
**Old Amsterdam:** Aaron Denny  
**Peddler's Daughter:** EBS  
**Stella Blu:** Gentleman Group

**Newmarket**  
**Stone Church:** Richard James & The Namechangers

**Plaistow**  
**The Sad Cafe:** Justin Spicer

**Portsmouth**  
**Blue Mermaid:** Sub Navy Roamers  
**Dolphin Striker:** Mojo Rhythm  
**Gas Light Co.:** DJ Koko P, Brooks Hubbard, Keith Henderson  
**Press Room:** Girls, Guns and Glory  
**The Red Door:** Ryan & Friends with Bobby Nakib  
**Ri Ra:** Mugsy  
**Rudi's:** Rob Gerry & John Funkhouser  
**Thirsty Moose:** Superfrog

**Seabrook**  
**Chop Shop Pub:** Rosie

**Sunapee**  
**Sunapee Coffee House:** Kristen Miller, Ken Bonfield

**Saturday, Dec. 15**  
**Allenstown**  
**Ground Zero:** Portraits, My Final Hour, A City Below Ashes, Vices

**Boscawen**  
**Alan's:** Doug Mitchell

**Concord**  
**Hermanos:** Joel Cage  
**Loudon Road Restaurant and Pit Road Lounge:** Day Janeiro  
**Purple Pit:** Tony Sarao  
**True Brew Barista:** Dusty Gray, Ghost Dinner Band

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## MUSIC HALL®

### NIGHT OF COMEDY

Jim Collition, Larry Myles & Anne Marie King



**Fri., December 14**

8:00 p.m. • \$18 • RS-Tables

### BJ THOMAS

at the Stockbridge Theatre

**Sun., December 16**

7 p.m. • \$10-40



at Pinkerton Academy

### BELLEVUE CADILLAC

Annual Christmas Show



**Fri., December 21**

8:00 p.m. • \$25 • RS-Tables

### NELS CLINE & JULIAN LAGE



**Sat., December 22**

8:00 p.m. • \$25/\$30 • RS-Theater

### JAMES MONTGOMERY BAND



**Thurs., December 27**

8:00 p.m.  
\$25  
GA

### POPA CHUBBY



**Fri., December 28**

8:00 p.m.  
\$25  
GA

### STEPHEN KELLOGG

Alone for the Holidays



**Sat., December 29**

8:00 p.m.  
\$25  
RS-Theater

### The Voice of Foreigner LOU GRAMM

at the Stockbridge Theatre



**Sat., December 29**

7 p.m. • \$30-40



at Pinkerton Academy

### NIGHT OF COMEDY

Harrison Stebbins, Sal Votano & Ralphie Royal



**Fri., January 4**

8:00 p.m. • \$18 • RS-Tables

### CHARLIE FARREN



**Sat., January 5**

8:00 p.m.  
\$25  
RS-Tables

### ALAN DOYLE of Great Big Sea



**Thurs., January 10**

8:00 p.m.  
\$25  
RS-Theater

### PETER MAYER



**Fri., January 11**

8:00 p.m.  
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## NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

**Dover**  
**Brick House:** John Nolan & Co., This Way  
**Fury's:** Iron Heart Circus  
**Kelley's Row:** On Tap

**Dunbarton**  
**SpireSide Coffee House:** Cindi Meehan

**Epsom**  
**Circle 9 Ranch:** Craig Kendall & Northwood Playboys

**Epping**  
**Holy Grail Food & Spirits:** Eargasm

**Exeter**  
**Shooters Sports Pub:** Bad Prom Date

**Gilford**  
**Patrick's Pub:** The Sundogs

**Goffstown**  
**The Village Trestle:** Napoleon in Rags

**Hampstead**  
**Pasta Loft:** Jim Gray  
**Route 111 Village Square Restaurant:** Road Kings

**Hampton**  
**Wally's Pub:** Reverend Horton Heat

**Londonderry**  
**The Coach Stop:** Julie Dougherty  
**Whippersnappers:** Souled Out Show Band

## NITE CONCERTS

<p><b>Capitol Center for the Performing Arts</b> 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, <a href="http://ccanh.com">ccanh.com</a></p> <p><b>The Colonial Theatre</b> 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, <a href="http://thecolonial.org">thecolonial.org</a></p> <p><b>Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College</b> 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, <a href="http://anselm.edu/dana">anselm.edu/dana</a></p> <p><b>The Flying Monkey</b> 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, <a href="http://flyingmonkeynh.com">flyingmonkeynh.com</a></p> <p><b>Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom</b> 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, <a href="http://casinoballroom.com">casinoballroom.com</a></p>	<p><b>Leddy Center</b> 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, <a href="http://leddycenter.org">leddycenter.org</a></p> <p><b>Lowell Boarding House Park</b> 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., <a href="http://www.lowellsummermusic.org">www.lowellsummermusic.org</a></p> <p><b>Lowell Memorial Auditorium</b> East Merimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, <a href="http://lowellauditorium.com">lowellauditorium.com</a></p> <p><b>Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion</b> 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, <a href="http://meadowbrook.net">meadowbrook.net</a></p> <p><b>The Middle Arts &amp; Entertainment Center</b> 316 Central St., Franklin,</p>	<p>934-1901, <a href="http://themiddlenh.org">themiddlenh.org</a></p> <p><b>The Music Hall</b> 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, <a href="http://themusichall.org">themusichall.org</a></p> <p><b>The Old Meeting House</b>, 1 New Boston Road, Francetown</p> <p><b>Palace Theatre</b>, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, <a href="http://palacetheatre.org">palacetheatre.org</a></p> <p><b>Prescott Park Arts Festival</b> 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, <a href="http://www.prescottpark.org">www.prescottpark.org</a>, 436-2848</p> <p><b>Rochester Opera House</b> 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992,</p>	<p><a href="http://rochesteroperahouse.com">rochesteroperahouse.com</a></p> <p><b>Stockbridge Theatre</b> Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, <a href="http://stockbridgetheatre.com">stockbridgetheatre.com</a></p> <p><b>Tupelo Music Hall</b> 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, <a href="http://tupelohall.com">tupelohall.com</a></p> <p><b>Verizon Wireless Arena</b> 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, <a href="http://www.verizonwirelessarena.com">www.verizonwirelessarena.com</a></p> <p><b>Whittmore Center Arena, UNH</b> 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, <a href="http://www.whittcenter.com">www.whittcenter.com</a></p>
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- **Martina McBride** Sat., Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m., Lowell Auditorium
- **Adam Ezra Group** Sat., Dec. 15, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Boston Pops Holiday Concert** Sat., Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m., Verizon Wireless Arena
- **BJ Thomas** Sun., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., Stockbridge Theatre
- **Dave Matthews Band, The Lumineers** Wed., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m., Verizon Wireless Arena
- **Bellevue Cadillac** Fri., Dec. 21, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Lou Gramm, Julian Lage, Nels Cline** Sat., Dec. 22, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **James Montgomery Band** Thurs., Dec. 27, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Popa Chubby** Fri., Dec. 28, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Recycled Percussion** Fri., Dec. 28, at 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

## THIS BALL'S ABUZZ



Head to the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester) for a night of holiday music, comedy and more. Greg and the Morning Buzz will host The Buzz Ball on Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m., featuring Charlie Farren, The Super Secret Project, Maine comedian Bob Marley and an appearance from Gov. John Lynch. Tickets range from \$30 to \$40. Call 668-5588 or visit [palacetheatre.org](http://palacetheatre.org).

**Manchester**  
**Blu:** Pop Disaster  
**Boynton's Taproom:** Dueling Pianos  
**British Beer Company:** Spiral Circus  
**City Sports Grille:** Soundtrack to Monday  
**Club 313:** DJ Bob  
**Derryfield:** Last Kid Picked  
**Fratellos:** Paul Luff  
**The Jam Factory:** Cody Care, Color Collective, Quits  
**Jokers:** Dave Clark  
**Murphy's Taproom:** Best Not Broken  
**Shaskeen:** Girls, Guns, and Glory  
**Stage Door:** Amorphous Band  
**Strange Brew:** BJ Magoon  
**The Yard:** Jodie and Fried Cactus

**Meredith**  
**Giuseppe's:** David Lockwood, No Limitz

**Merrimack**  
**The Homestead:** MB Padfield  
**Jade Dragon:** The Slakas

**Milford**  
**Clark's Tavern:** Ryan Bossie  
**J's Tavern:** Tammy Lynn & Myles High

**Nashua**  
**Fody's:** Darrah  
**Killarney's:** Karen Grenier  
**Old Amsterdam:** Dan Siroteau  
**Peddler's Daughter:** Take 4  
**Stella Blu:** Corey Brackett



## CLASSICAL IRISH SOUND



Boston-based Long Time Courting returns to Nashua with its signature Celtic folk sound on Sunday, Dec. 16, with a 3 p.m. show at Studio 99 (17 Factory St., Nashua). Liz Simmons, who takes on guitar and vocal duties, said the band is bringing new material and a new cellist. Admission to the show is \$15 and \$12 for students. Visit [studio99nashua.com](http://studio99nashua.com).

**Newmarket**  
**Stone Church:** Mighty Mystic

**Plaistow**  
**The Sad Cafe:** The House Special, Shangadang, Errata, Zach Benton

**Portsmouth**  
**Blue Mermaid:** Old Saw, Tricky Britches  
**Dolphin Striker:** Danille Miraglia Band  
**Gas Light Co.:** DJ Koko P, Tony Santesse, Dave Bundza  
**Press Room:** Wooden Eye, Americana, Larry Garland & Friends  
**The Red Door:** Mike Swells  
**Ri Ra:** The Complaints  
**Rudi's:** Duke & John  
**Thirsty Moose:** Jamsterdam

**Salem**  
**Black Water Grill:** Sonic Boomers  
**Jocelyn's:** James Renner

**Seabrook**  
**Chop Shop Pub:** Drop Zone

**Sunapee**  
**One Mile West Tavern:** Sirsy

**Sunday, Dec. 16**  
**Concord**  
**Hermanos:** Eric Chase

**Dover**  
**Brick House:** DJ Erich Kruger

**Hampton**  
**Ron's Landing:** The Read/Allan Duo  
**Wally's Pub:** Rob Benton

**Nashua**  
**Studio 99:** Long Time Courting

**Portsmouth**  
**Press Room:** Seacoast Big Band  
**The Red Door:** Green Lion Crew  
**Ri Ra:** James McGarvey  
**Rudi's:** Lex & Joe

**Monday, Dec. 17**  
**Concord**  
**Hermanos:** Eric Chase  
**Dover**  
**Brick House:** Rockright Academy

**Londonderry**  
**Whippersnappers:** Joe MacDonald

**Manchester**  
**Fratellos:** Rob Wolfe

**Meredith**  
**Giuseppe's:** Lou Porrazzo

**Merrimack**  
**The Homestead:** Charlie Christos

**Nashua**  
**Studio 99:** Django Jam

**Portsmouth**  
**Press Room:** Eric Klaxton & Friends  
**The Red Door:** Black Window Music

**Tuesday, Dec. 18**  
**Concord**  
**Barley House:** Traditional Irish Session  
**Hermanos:** Glenn Paladino

**Dover**  
**Brick House:** James McGarvey  
**Fury's:** Tim Theriault and Friends

**Londonderry**  
**Whippersnappers:** VJ Mark

**Manchester**  
**Fratellos:** Jen Oldham  
**Shaskeen:** Tom Deniston  
**Strange Brew:** Peter Parcek

**Meredith**  
**Giuseppe's:** Michael Bourgeois

**Merrimack**  
**The Homestead:** Paul Luff

**Nashua**  
**Old Amsterdam:** This class is haunted

**Wednesday, Dec. 19**  
**Concord**  
**Hermanos:** Glenn Paladino

**Dover**  
**Fury's:** Shark Martin

**Manchester**  
**Fratellos:** MB Padfield  
**Strange Brew:** Jon Ross

**Meredith**  
**Giuseppe's:** Lou Porrazzo

**Merrimack**  
**The Homestead:** Brian Gray

**Milford**  
**J's Tavern:** Lisa Guyer  
**Pasta Loft:** Acoustic BS

**Nashua**  
**Old Amsterdam:** Josh Logan  
**Studio 99:** Bluegrass Jam

**Portsmouth**  
**Press Room:** Kama Linden  
**The Red Door:** Red on Red with Evaredy  
**Rudi's:** Dimitri

## COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

**Friday, Dec. 14**  
**Londonderry**  
**Tupelo Music Hall:** Jim Colliton and Larry Myles

**Manchester**  
**Headliners:** Ryan Gartley

**Saturday, Dec. 15**  
**Manchester**  
**Headliners:** Ryan Gartley

**Friday, Dec. 21**  
**Manchester**  
**Headliners:** Dave Ratigan

**Saturday, Dec. 22**  
**Manchester**  
**Headliners:** Dave Ratigan

**Saturday, Dec. 29**  
**Manchester**  
**Headliners:** Robbie Printz

**Friday, Jan. 18**  
**Concord**  
**Cap Center:** Catch Comedy Night: Capitol Steps

**Saturday, Jan. 26**  
**Keene**  
**Colonial Theatre:** North Shore Comedy

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**Wed, Jan 23**

**MARTIN SEXTON**  
**Sat, Jan 26**

**BLUE ÖYSTER CULT**  
**Fri, Feb 1**

**DEADFISH 2**  
**Sat, Feb 2**

**PLYMOUTH BLUES SUMMIT - Sat, Feb 9**  
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**RYAN MONTBLEAU BAND & RUSTIC OVERTONES - Fri, Feb 22**



# 625-1855x25 HIPPO CLASSIFIEDS

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YEAR	MODEL	VIN #
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2000	Dodge Stratus	1B3EJ46X0N145456
2002	Dodge Stratus	1B3EL46X62N347378
2008	Honda Civic	2HGFA16598H533442
1998	Dodge Caravan	2B4GP45R9WR524025
1998	Chrysler Town & Country	1C4GP54LXW8534650

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## SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *My Lucky Life in and out of Show Business*, by Dick Van Dyke, born Dec. 13, 1925.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** You can spread jelly on the peanut butter but you can't spread peanut butter on the jelly. You may be wasting your time with that sandwich — try approaching it from a more practical angle.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)** My mother was ... much more talkative. If she had a deficiency, it was a tendency toward absentmindedness. She once cooked a ham and later found it in my father's shirt drawer. I am not kidding. Feeling absentminded? Check the shirt drawer.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)** I came into my own. It was not a personality change as much as it was the realization that I had a personality. Hey, guess what? You have a personality!

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)** My most memorable disaster occurred when I interviewed a dogsled racer. ... He had his team of dogs set up on the stage. They were gorgeous animals. Just before we went live, he warned, 'Whatever you do, don't say 'mush' to the dogs.' 'Okay,' I told myself, and made a mental note. But of course during our interview, as I asked him about driving his team of dogs, I began clowning around and jokingly said, 'Mush.' It just came out of me. His dogs didn't understand it was a joke and they took off. They ran through the kitchen set, the weather set, and two other sets, knocking all of them down, before they stopped. MUSH!

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** First, a zookeeper came on with an anteater, which relieved itself on the stage. It would have been funny if not for a noxious odor that quite simply stunk up the entire studio.

You're going to want to open all the windows to air the place out.

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** However, as with all of life, whether you're making a movie or running to the market, there are the plans you make and there is the way life actually unfolds. Don't freak out if your plans go out the window.

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)** The work was maddening. I would put twenty pairs of shoes on a woman, all of which fit perfectly, and she would walk out shaking her head that none of them was right. God, I hated that job. Only the foot knows whether the shoe fits.

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)** I was greeted by Dinky, the 130-pound chimp who was the real star of the movie. ... After a slight roll of his eyes, he reached for my coffee and cigarette, then drank the coffee and smoked the cigarette. The question may arise: are you a man or a chimp?

**Leo (July 23 – Aug 22)** If you could entertain people and take them away from their problems for a while, you were doing pretty well, I thought. Which you can, so you will be.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)** While trying to keep up with all the twenty-year-old dancers, I did not warm up properly and paid the price. How many times do you need to hear it? Always stretch beforehand.

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)** For a while, I talked of journeying to Fiji — not to live. The commute was too far. 'But I'd like to try the lifestyle,' I said jokingly. No joke: Embrace the life you really want.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** Drama was fine, but my first love was making people laugh. Go with your first love.

## NITE SUDOKU

### Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7			2			5	
	5	3	6	9	8		
	6		9			1	
8	5					7	6
	4		5			2	
		1	8	4	5	6	
6			1				9

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/13

## SU DO KU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

**12/6**

6	4	2	8	5	3	7	9	1
3	8	7	4	1	9	5	6	2
1	9	5	7	6	2	3	4	8
5	3	1	6	4	8	2	7	9
7	6	8	2	9	1	4	3	5
4	2	9	3	7	5	8	1	6
9	5	3	1	2	4	6	8	7
8	1	6	5	3	7	9	2	4
2	7	4	9	8	6	1	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

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12/06



**“Into the Great Wide Open” — a wild grid for the 600th Jonesin’ puzzle.**

### Across

- 1 What Burger King tried to serve  
on a sundae in 2012  
6 Sheep's sound  
9 L times VI  
12 Stopping point in a Carlo Levi

novel

- 13 Fails to live up to  
15 Arty district  
16 Character voiced by Danny  
DeVito, with “The”  
17 “See above,” in footnotes

- 19 Gp. for doctors
- 20 “You pick the place”
- 21 Cocktails with a recipe on the  
Kahlua label
- 28 Break room thefts that suck  
(especially when you put your  
name on them)
- 30 B, L or T, e.g.
- 31 Quicktime file extension
- 32 Genetic message “venue”
- 33 OTC sleep-aid introduced in 2012
- 34 H.S. diploma alternative
- 35 Three-letter Best Picture nominee
- 36 “Later, skaters”
- 38 Bait shop stock
- 39 “Buffalo Stance” singer Cherry
- 40 Mountain chain in Utah
- 41 “Count us in!”

- 43 Quid pro quo deal  
46 Highest-ranking  
47 Botanist Gray  
50 They're not usually syndicated  
55 Sighting subject  
56 Costanza mantra  
57 Blemish  
58 Political theorist Hannah  
59 Reggae musician \_\_\_\_-Mouse  
60 Train depot, for short  
61 Foot, in kid-speak  
62 Rail option, to Rodrigo

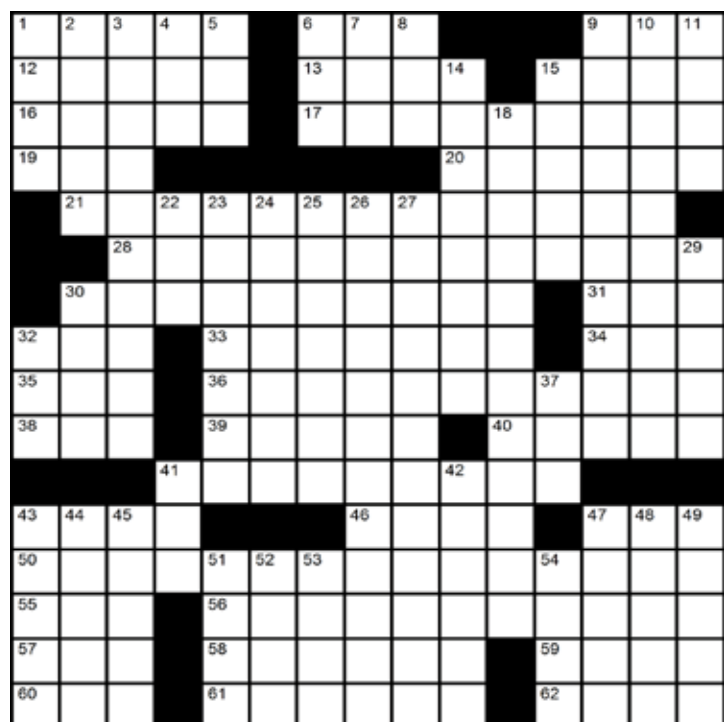
- 15 Itch-inducing shrub  
18 Surname in fashion  
22 1991 e-commerce company  
acquired by Oracle in 2011  
23 Former New Jersey Senator  
24 Type of band with a clarinetist  
25 From the 20-yard-line to the  
goal line  
26 Hidden attribute  
27 English dogs with a keen  
sense of smell  
29 Record half  
30 The 411

## Down

- 1 Strings virtuoso Fleck
- 2 Mushroom cloud maker
- 3 Possibly-venomous creature
- 4 Suffix after pay
- 5 Reject
- 6 Roy G. \_\_\_\_
- 7 “\_\_\_\_ was saying...”
- 8 Its symbol contains itself at the end
- 9 World capital that after which the chemical element hafnium is named
- 10 Sports Illustrated’s “Sports-woman of the Year,” 1976
- 11 It gets hung indoors
- 14 Medical device used to alleviate pain

- 32 \_\_\_\_ Nabisco (one-time tobacco merger)  
37 Hurry, old school  
41 Program from FDR  
42 Bad blood  
43 Seedy places  
44 “Hawaii Five-O” nemesis  
45 Tree-to-be  
47 Jules or Ed  
48 Fuel  
49 Dam on the Nile  
51 Exam for a future atty.  
52 It’s nada  
53 Cookie introduced in 1912  
54 “Dark am \_\_\_\_ lovely” (passage from the Song of Solomon)

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([editor@jonesincrosswords.com](mailto:editor@jonesincrosswords.com))



**12/6**



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A graphic for Hippo Prints. The word "hippo" is in a large, black, sans-serif font, and "prints" is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it. A dashed grey line curves from the bottom of "hippo" around the right side of "prints". A red paper airplane with a white hippo silhouette on its side is flying towards the right, following the curve of the dashed line. Below the text, the words "professional printing" are in a bold, red, sans-serif font, followed by "quality speed convenience" in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "49 hollis street • Manchester, NH" in white, sans-serif font, with "call for a quote 603.625.1855 x25" in a smaller white font below it.



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Not sure who to send it to? You can also contact editor Amy Diaz at [adiaz@hippopress.com](mailto:adiaz@hippopress.com) or call 625-1855 ext. 29.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters to the editor to [news@hippopress.com](mailto:news@hippopress.com). Include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters will be edited for size and will appear in our occasional comments section.

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## NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

### Hair Lip

Plastic surgeons in Turkey and France told CNN in November that mustache implants have suddenly surged in popularity as Middle Eastern men use their increased lip bushiness to convey power and prestige. Surgeons extract follicles from hairier parts of the body in procedures that cost the equivalent of around \$7,000 and show full results in about six months. An anthropology professor told CNN that, by tradition in Arab countries, a man of honor would “swear on my mustache,” use mustaches as collateral for loans, shave off a vanquished foe’s mustache as a reward, and gravely insult enemies with “Curse be upon your mustache!”

### Latest Religious Messages

• At the religious festival of Pon, thousands of Muslims travel to Gunung Kemukus, on Indonesia’s main island of Java, to have the required sexual intercourse with a stranger. The experience, which supposedly brings good fortune, has become heavily commercialized, but nevertheless, about half the participants are “pure,” in that no money changes hands. More than a quick tryst is involved, according to an October Global Mail dispatch. The pilgrims must first pray, then bathe themselves, then select their proper stranger, then bathe themselves afterward (carefully saving the water for later re-use), and finally return seven times at 35-day intervals to refresh their ritual.

• According to testimony in Perth, Australia, in November, one retired priest, Thomas Byrne, 80, bit off the ear of another, Thomas Smith, 81, in a brawl over a parking space. Father Byrne and Father Smith are residents of the same retirement home in the Perth suburb of Dianella.

• For centuries, some residents of India’s Madhya Pradesh state have allowed themselves to be trampled by garishly dressed animals in periodic attempts to have their prayers answered. The November “Eka-dashi” (the 11th day of certain months of the Hindu calendar) this year began with prayers, followed by the liquoring up of the animals (cows in Ujjain and buffaloes in Bhopal, for example) to “remove their inhibitions,” according to a WebIndia123 report. Even so, according to local press reports, hardly anyone ever gets hurt.

### Cultural Diversity

• Things People Believe: (1) Personalities are heavily influenced by blood types, according to the Japanese. People with Type A blood are thought to be “sensitive perfectionists and good team players, but over-anxious,” according to a November BBC News dispatch, while O’s are “curious and generous but stubborn.” Some industries market blood-type-specific products ranging from soft drinks to condoms. (2)

Names given by their parents heavily influence a person’s fortunes in life, according to many Thais, but that means relief from misery is just an official name-change away, according to a November Wall Street Journal dispatch from Bangkok. Services-for-fee are available to help find prosperous names, with one smartphone application suggesting five for the equivalent of about \$10.

• **Saudis Remain Freedom-Challenged:** (1) In September, officials in Jeddah detained 908 female Nigerian visitors who were not accompanied by appropriate male guardians as required for all females in the kingdom under age 45. (Women older than that are allowed merely to carry notarized permission slips from husbands, sons or brothers.) That the Nigerians were in the country only to make the required Muslim Hajj pilgrimage did not deter Saudi authorities. (2) Saudi immigration officials in November began a text-messaging service to notify husbands if a woman attempts to leave the country (at an airport or across a border) without the official “yellow sheet” authorizing her departure.

• **Update:** Japanese and Chinese traditions absolutely reject the idea of reusing wooden chopsticks, and for many years Japan’s (and then, China’s) forests easily met chopstick demand. But Japan requires 23 billion pairs a year, and China 63 billion, which the wood industry (even China’s) eventually could not provide. In 2011, Korean-born Jae Lee built a factory in Americus, Ga., near forests of poplar and sweet gum trees that proved the ideal combination of softness and hardness for the sticks. In 2011 and early 2012, he supplied Japanese, Chinese and Koreans with 20 million pairs of “Made in

U.S.A.” chopsticks every week. (In June, Georgia Chopsticks LLC was inexplicably closed by court order, even though its sales had remained brisk.)

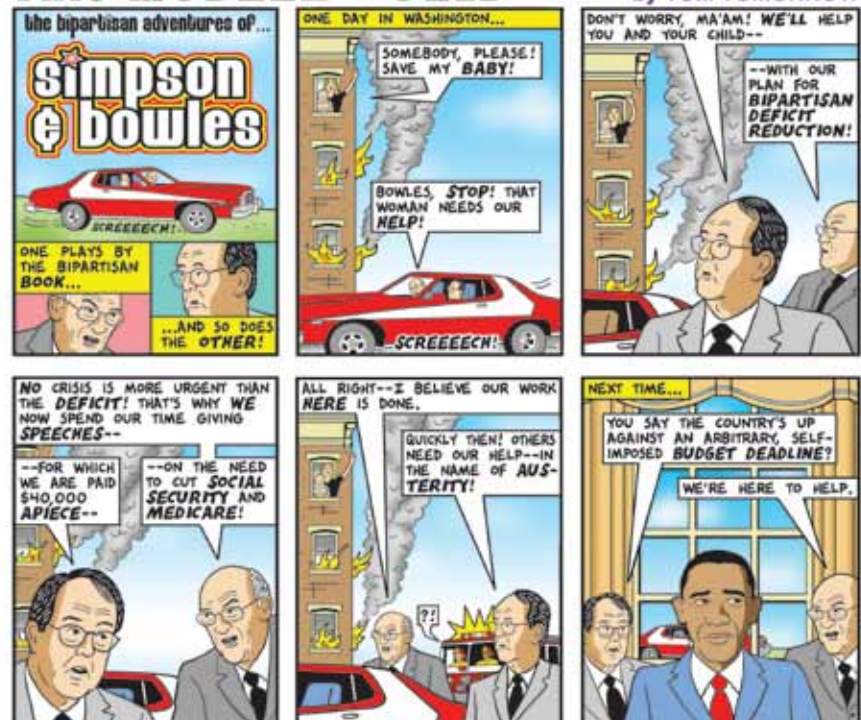
### Questionable Judgments

• Police were seeking a 6-foot-3 man concerning an attempted child-abduction in November after a father intervened as the man led the father’s 2-year-old daughter toward an exit of the Fashion Square mall in Charlottesville, Va. The father alerted Fashion Square’s security, and the cops took the man into “custody,” which turned out to mean escorting him off the property and warning him not to return (catch and release?).

• **Questionable Product Launches:** (1) The Demeter Fragrance Library (maker of such “classic” scents as “Dirt,” “Crayon” and “Laundromat”) has added to its line with “Sushi” cologne, reported the website FoodBeast.com in November. Fortunately, the scent is not that of raw fish, but “cooked sticky rice,” seaweed, ginger and lemon essences. (2) A company called Beverly Hills Caviar recently installed three vending machines in the Los Angeles area that sell nothing but varieties of caviar (ranging from pink mother of pearl (\$4) to Imperial River Beluga (\$500 an ounce).

*Are you ready for News of the Weird Pro Edition? Every Monday at [newssoftheweird.blogspot.com](http://newssoftheweird.blogspot.com) and [www.weirduniverse.net](http://www.weirduniverse.net). Other handy addresses: [WeirdNews.atearthlink.net](http://WeirdNews.atearthlink.net), [www.newssoftheweird.com](http://www.newssoftheweird.com) and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679.) Copyright 2012 Chuck Shepherd. Distributed by Universal UCLICK.*

## THIS MODERN WORLD



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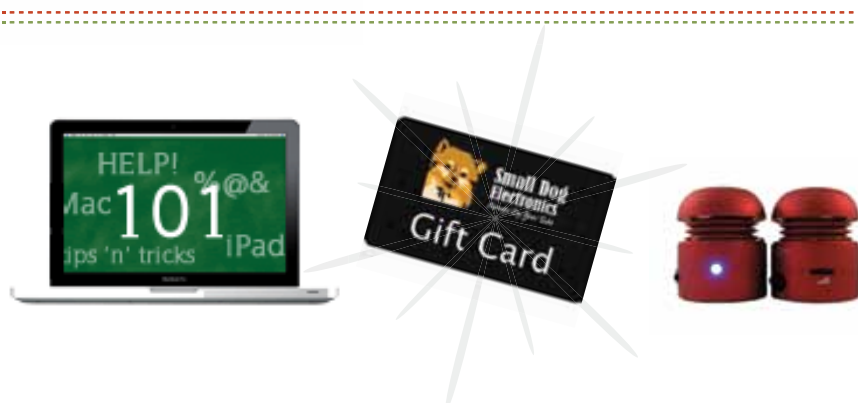
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### '12 Silverado Ext Cab 4x4

4x4, V8 engine, auto, AC, AM/FM stereo, cruise control #T12-178

MSRP:.....\$31,415 **YOU PAY**

Disc/Rebates\*.....\$6,433 **\$21,982**

Trade Bonus\*.....\$1,000

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### '13 Spark

AC, power windows, AM/FM stereo, OnStar, rear defroster & wiper, tilt #C13-81

MSRP:.....\$12,995 **YOU PAY**

Dis/Rebates\*.....\$707 **\$12,288**

37 MPG\*

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### '13 Sonic

AC, power locks, AM/FM Stereo with Bluetooth, keyless entry, rear defrost, tilt wheel and more #C13-32

MSRP:.....\$14,995 **YOU PAY**

Disc/Rebates\*.....\$734 **\$14,261**

35 MPG\*

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### '12 Equinox all wheel drive

AWD, auto, power W/L, AC, keyless entry, cruise, Bluetooth, AM/FM stereo with CD #T12-329

MSRP:.....\$26,405 **YOU PAY**

Disc/Rebates\*.....\$2,417 **\$22,988**

Lease Conquest\*\*....\$1,000

29 MPG\*

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### '12 Silverado 4x4

4x4, Automatic, AC, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM Stereo #T12-302

MSRP:.....\$26,930 **YOU PAY**

Disc/Rebates\*.....\$4,269 **\$19,661**

Trade Bonus\*.....\$1,000

Lease Conquest\*\*....\$2,000

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### '12 Cargo Van

V8 engine, AM/FM stereo, AC, auto, locking rear diff., fixed glass, BIN package #T12-242

MSRP:.....\$27,735 **YOU PAY**

Disc/Rebates\*.....\$5,755 **\$19,980**

Lease Conquest\*\*....\$2,000

Price includes BIN package for Commercial Customers!

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### '12 Cruze

AC, power W/L, keyless entry, AM/FM stereo w/Bluetooth, steering wheel controls #C12-165

MSRP:.....\$17,870 **YOU PAY**

Disc/Rebates\*.....\$1,880 **\$14,990**

Lease Conquest\*\*....\$1,000

36 MPG\*

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### '13 Malibu

Auto, AC, power W/L, AM/FM stereo with CD, keyless entry, cruise control, Bluetooth for phone #C13-73

MSRP:.....\$23,150 **YOU PAY**

Disc/Rebates\*.....\$2,211 **\$19,939**

Lease Conquest\*\*....\$1,000

33 MPG\*

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### '12 Impala

AC, power seats, windows and locks, stereo with CD, cruise control, Bluetooth for phone #C12-67

MSRP:.....\$26,665 **YOU PAY**

Disc/Rebates\*.....\$5,233 **\$20,432**

Lease Conquest\*\*....\$1,000

30 MPG\*

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\*All prices reflect rebates to dealer. In lieu of rebates. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. Vehicle subject to prior sale. All miles per gallon are EPA estimates, highway. Results may vary. Dealer not responsible for errors or omissions. See dealer for details. Tax, title, registration and doc fees are additional. Trade-in Bonus - must own any 1999 or newer car or light duty truck and trade it in. See dealer for details. \*\* Conquest Lease Program - must have a current 1999 or newer non-GM Lease in household. You do not have to trade in vehicle. See dealer for details. 12/19/12 at 8pm

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